
Subject: Re: little and big endian -- once more
Posted by [Dick Jackson](#) on Thu, 13 May 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Hi,

Martin Schultz wrote:

>
> Hi all,
>
> took me a while to realize that it is the machine architecture not
> the OS that determines the byte swapping -- in fact I needed to have IDL
> on linux (after using it on an SGI and with Windows) to figure that out
> ... Anyway, I now devised the following test for byte swapping which is
> applied in my open_file routine and handles everything transparently.

I'm not sure if I'm missing some subtlety here, but wouldn't the (newish) keywords /SWAP_IF_[BIG|LITTLE]_ENDIAN to IDL's OPEN and BYTEORDER routines work in all cases? I've used them to good effect for cross-platform work.

From the help file:

[...] it only takes effect if the current system has [big|little] endian byte ordering. This keyword does not refer to the byte ordering of the input data, but to the computer hardware.

Cheers,

--

-Dick

Dick Jackson Fanning Software Consulting, Canadian Office
djackson@dfanning.com Calgary, Alberta Voice/Fax: (403) 242-7398
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
