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

- > 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.

This method assumes that you keep track of which platform was used to create the datafile. I'd rather just interrogate the datafile.

Or of course, you can use netCDF. We're working on a specification right now for a simplified set of 3 functions to perform netCDF read, write, and inquire operations. I'll post them when they're ready.

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