
Subject: Re: READU on IRIX and Win95, Big Endian, Little Endian
Posted by [Paul O Storaasli](#) on Tue, 20 Jul 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Well, Paul, SGI's along with most Unix Computers are Big endian, while PCs are little endian. To tell what type your computer is, you can use the following few lines, taken from David Fanning's commentary on this subject (http://www.dfanning.com/tips/endian_machines.html):

```
little_endian = (BYTE(1, 0, 1))[0]
  IF (little_endian) THEN $
    Print, "I'm little endian." ELSE $
    Print, "I'm big endian."
```

If you want to read data from a Big Endian machine, on a little endian machine, you might want to place the following line in your code after you have read the data:

```
IF ((BYTE(1, 0, 1))[0]) THEN variablename= SWAP_ENDIAN(variablename)
```

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Paul O Storaasli wrote:

```
> When I use READU on the same file in Win95 and IRIX, I get different
> results.
> Is this possible? How would I read the file on a Win95 system?
> I am trying to read a binary file of 32-bit floats with the following
> code:
>
```
