Subject: Re: Endian-ness
Posted by Liam E. Gumley on Fri, 08 Feb 2002 21:18:15 GMT
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Jonathan Joseph wrote:
> Is there a system variable that gives the endian-ness of the current
> hardware? I am reading a file which tells me the endian-ness of the
> data, and I'd like to swap_endian if it is different from the current
> hardware. In lieu of finding a system variable to compare to, I have
> done this:
>
> test_int = 1
> byteorder,test_int,/ntohs
> big_endian = test_int eq 1
>
> "network" byte order is big-endian, so I convert a 1 to the host
> byte-order and see if it's still a 1.
>
> This way works fine, but it seems as thought I'm missing something.
> Is there a better way? Using the byteorder routine to convert the data
> is not an option (unless it's been improved for 5.5).

```
;---
FUNCTION BIG_ENDIAN

;- Returns true (1B) if the host platform is big endian
;- (most significant byte first)

return, 1B - byte(1L, 0L)

END
;---
FUNCTION LITTLE_ENDIAN

;- Returns true (1B) if the host platform is little endian
;- (least significant byte first)

return, byte(1L, 0L)

END
;---

IDL Version 5.3 (IRIX mipseb). (c) 1999, Research Systems, Inc.
IDL> print, big_endian(), little_endian()
   1   0

IDL Version 5.3 (Win32 x86). (c) 1999, Research Systems, Inc.
IDL> print, big_endian(), little_endian()
```

0 1

Cheers,
Liam.
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