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Subject: Endian-ness

Posted by [Jonathan Joseph](#) on Fri, 08 Feb 2002 20:47:21 GMT

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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 though 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).

Thanks.

-Jonathan

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