
Subject: Re: Endian-ness

Posted by [Robert Stockwell](#) on Mon, 11 Feb 2002 18:01:21 GMT

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Jonathan Joseph wrote:

- > Thank you David and Liam,
- >
- > Liam's result seems more aesthetically pleasing (no offense David).
- > Unfortunately, I don't think I can use the `swap_if_big_endian` and
- > `swap_if_little_endian` keywords to `OPEN`, because whether I swap or
- > not depends on BOTH the hardware and the file. I have no a-priori
- > knowledge of the endian-ness of the file until I've already
- > opened it. Although, I guess I could open the file, figure out
- > what it is, close it and then re-open it.

This is exactly what I do. I have a rule that all data I write shall be little endian, but there still can be files that are big endian. I have a small range of possible values, so I read the data in little endian, check the range, and if it exceeds the range, reread the data as bigendian.

That seems to be the only way to tell if a file was written as big/little endian. Of course, one could put a header on the file indicating how it was written, but if someone else writes the data, you are out of luck.

Cheers,
bob
