
Subject: Re: Fortran unformatted data: Big or little endian
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 30 Apr 2003 12:55:44 GMT
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Michael Schroeter (schroeter@muk.uni-hannover.de) writes:

> I have a problem reading Fortran unformatted data in IDL. I have a file
> containing data of well known size (e.g., an array of 100 x 100 single
> precision floating point values). Unfortunately, I don't know something
> about the machine (big or little endian machine) on which the file has
> been produced. Is there a way to get this information on the fly by IDL
> in order to open the file automatically in the correctly (using the
> /SWAP_ENDIAN option or not). The way I used so far was trial and error.
> But since I have many of those files I'm searching for a solution
> without recompiling my source code.
>
> Do you have any ideas?

Here is an article with some ideas:

http://www.dfanning.com/tips/endian_machines.html

Cheers,

David

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