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Subject: Re: Possible Mac OS Bug with FIX.  
Posted by [Foldy Lajos](#) on Wed, 11 May 2005 18:10:54 GMT  
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Hi,

my guess is that the two fix() calls do different things:

- fix(tmp[15]) does convert a 1-byte integer to a 2-byte integer, using a conversion instruction in the CPU. The result is the same on all architectures.
- fix(tmp, 15) does read memory from the address of tmp[15] as a 2-byte integer. No conversion instruction is used, only write (as type A) and read (as type B). It is the good old EQUIVALENCE statement from Fortran, and is architecture-dependent. Perhaps this should be mentioned in the IDL docs :-)

regards,  
lajos

On Wed, 11 May 2005, David Fanning wrote:

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> Kenneth Bowman writes:
>
>> I think perhaps you want fix(tmp, 14)?
>>
>> IDL> tmp = bytarr(20)
>> IDL> tmp[15] = 5
>> IDL> print, fix(tmp[15])
>>    5
>> IDL> print, fix(tmp, 14)
>>    5
>>
>> I think it is not a question of endianness, but of "which 2 bytes belong to the
>> 2-byte integer".
>
> What we are really looking for is consistency across
> architectures. :-)
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
```

> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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