Subject: Re: Pack a Float into Bytes
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Thu, 02 Jun 2011 16:11:48 GMT

On Jun 2, 11:56 am, David Fanning <n...@idlcoyote.com> wrote:
> David Fanning writes:
>>> Is this what you mean?
>
>>> b = byte(!pi,0,4) ;Convert !pi to a byte array
>>> print,float(b,0,1) ;Convert back to a floating point number
>
>> Yes, that's what I mean. I was just getting on to write
>> a note that I found what I was looking for on my own
>> web page! (Not in such a nice, pithy two lines, though.)
>
>> I think I'll write this up for the future! :-)
>
> I wrote a short article that demonstrates how to do this
> with floating point arrays, the real topic of my inquiry
> this morning.
>
> http://www.idlcoyote.com/code_tips/packfloat.php

Of course, there are caveats. If you are exchanging bytes between
different kinds of computers, there is a risk that they will interpret
the bytes differently. For data exchange, judicious use of the
BYTEORDER with /XDRTOF and /FTOXDR are recommended.

Craig