
Subject: Was a file opened with /Swap_if_little_endian ?
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Fri, 04 Jan 2013 03:47:46 GMT
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If I open a file with the /swap_if_little_endian keyword

```
IDL> openr,1,'testpsf.fits',/swap_if_little
```

then I can use help,/file to determine if bytes will be automatically swapped. On my little endian Macbook the answer is yes.

```
IDL> help,/file
```

Unit	Attributes	Name
1	Read, Swap Endian	testpsf.fits

But is there any way to get this information programmatically? The likely suspects FSTAT() and FILE_INFO() don't seem to give this information. So my only solution right now is to capture the output of "HELP,/FILES" and parse it.

(Some background: I want my FITS reader to be able to accept a unit number rather than a file name. But then I need to know whether the unit was previously opened for byte swapping on the fly, or whether I need to manually do the byte swapping.) Thanks, --Wayne
