Subject: Re: Size of variables in bytes?
Posted by davidf on Tue, 02 Sep 1997 07:00:00 GMT
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Christian Salow writes:

> is it true that there is no function in IDL 5.0.2 to get the size of a
> variable in bytes (except structures)?

True.

> An integer variable seams to be 2 bytes indpendent from the system
> architecture but a string seams to be 1 byte per character on a Win32
> machine and 2 bytes on a SunOS-machine. I wrote a string to an
> unformatted output file and looked at the filepointer to get the size in
> bytes.

I think it would be less trouble to use the StrLen function to
find the length of the string. This is its size in bytes. Even
on a SunOS machine, I should think.

> Is the following true and is it machine independent?
> byte 1b
> integer 2b
> long int 4b
> floating 4b
> double 8b
> string ???
> structure n_tags(var, /length)

Yes, this is true and it is machine independent.
Strings are always ??? (variable length) in IDL.

> What about:
> complex floating

8 bytes.

> double-precision complex

16 bytes.

> pointer

4 bytes

> object reference

Don't know.

Cheers,

David

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