
Subject: Size of variables in bytes?

Posted by [Christian Salow](#) on Tue, 02 Sep 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Hello,

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

An integer variable seems to be 2 bytes independent from the system architecture but a string seems 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.

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)
```

What's about:

```
complex floating
double-precision complex
pointer
object reference
```

Thanks for your help

Bye Chris

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