
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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