
Subject: Q: IDL and endianness issues

Posted by [Ossi Vaananen](#) on Tue, 11 Apr 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi!

Let's say I have a binary file with known structure, and the file is written on a little-endian machine. Then I want to read it again on a big-endian machine. How do I do it?

If endianness was no problem, I could do this simply by creating a structure with contents that match the alignment of the different data types in the binary file, and then read data to it from the file with READU.

In Matlab, files can be opened with the endianness of the file explicitly given as an argument to fopen. In IDL manuals I saw no reference to such a feature in IDL.

The question is, does there exist a built-in feature in IDL that somehow allows endianness-specified file I/O?

All the best,

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