Subject: Way to determine big/little endian?
Posted by Mark Rivers on Thu, 20 Sep 2001 04:13:34 GMT

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Is there a built-in way to determine if the machine IDL is running on is
big-endian or little-endian? I would expect that there might be a field in
!version, but there is not.

Here is what I am doing to set the Boolean value "big_endian":

```
; If this is a big-endian machine swap the byte order
; I don't know of a built-in IDL test for endianness, do it ourselves
t1 = 1
t2 = 1
byteorder, t2, /sswap, /swap_if_big_endian
big_endian = (t1 ne t2)
if (big_endian) then str = swap_endian(str)
```


Is there a simpler way? It would be nice if swap_endian accepted the
/swap_if_big_endian and /swap_if_little_endian keywords the way byteorder
now does.

Mark Rivers