
Subject: Determining machine endian-ness
Posted by [rivers](#) on Mon, 29 Jun 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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Is there a way to determine whether the machine on which IDL is executing is big endian or little endian? I am trying to read a data file which I know contains little-endian data. I need to byte swap this data if IDL is running on a big-endian machine, but not byte-swap if it is running on a little-endian machine.

It would be nice there were a field in !VERSION which contained this information. Right now I am testing if !VERSION.ARCH eq 'x26', 'alpha', etc. There must be a better way.

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Subject: Re: Determining machine endian-ness
Posted by [Kelly Dean](#) on Mon, 06 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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That is why my prefer method is to check a number in the input data field. I only use !VERSION if I know what machines and version of IDL I am writing for.

Kelly

Charles Allen wrote:

```
>> With IDL 4.0+, !VERSION tells you if your operating system is UNIX or WIN32. I
>> would use this to determine if I need to byte-swap on some occassions. However,
>
> This can't be a good idea, as IDL runs under Linux and FreeBSD on Intel boxes.
>
> -- Charles Allen -- callen@bga.com --
```

Subject: Re: Determining machine endian-ness
Posted by [Mike Schienle](#) on Tue, 07 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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contains little-endian data. I need to byte swap this
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machine.

Thanks to all the replies from someone who did not make the request. I
walked in today to a question in my inbox asking about the endian of my
system so some data could be generated. Good timing folks!

Mike Schienle

Subject: Re: Determining machine endian-ness
Posted by [reuss](#) on Wed, 08 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <callen-0207982206350001@192.168.22.98>, callen@bga.com (Charles Allen) wrote:
>> With IDL 4.0+, !VERSION tells you if your operating system is UNIX or WIN32. I
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What about !version.arch?

Matthias
