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 View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

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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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.

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
- >> would use this to determine if I need to byte-swap on some occassions.

>

> This can't be a good idea, as IDL runs under Linux and FreeBSD on Intel boxes.

What about !version.arch?

Matthias