

Byte Order

(A portion of chips?)

- What order do we read numbers that occupy more than one byte
- e.g. (numbers in hex to make it easy to read)
- 12345678 can be stored in 4x8bit locations as follows

Byte Order (example)

- | • Address | Value (1) | Value(2) |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| • 184 | 12 | 78 |
| • 185 | 34 | 56 |
| • 186 | 56 | 34 |
| • 186 | 78 | 12 |
- i.e. read top down or bottom up?

Byte Order Names

- The problem is called Endian
- The system on the left has the most significant byte in the lowest address
- This is called big-endian [[Motorola](#)]
- The system on the right has the least significant byte in the lowest address
- This is called little-endian [[Intel](#)]

Example of C Data Structure

```

struct {
    int    a;        //0x1112_1314        word
    int    pad;     //
    double b;       //0x2122_2324_2526_2728 doubleword
    char*  c;       //0x3132_3334        word
    char   d[7];   //'A','B','C','D','E','F','G' byte array
    short  e;      //0x5152        halfword
    int    f;      //0x6161_6364        word
} s;

```

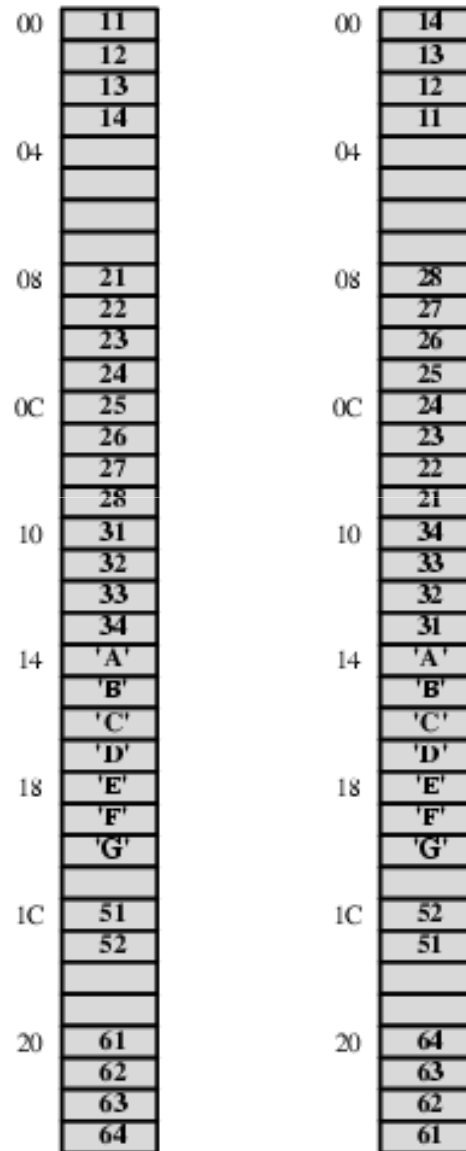
Big-endian address mapping

Byte Address	11	12	13	14				
00	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
08	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
	31	32	33	34	'A'	'B'	'C'	'D'
10	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	'E'	'F'	'G'		51	52		
18	18	19	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F
	61	62	63	64				
20	20	21	22	23				

Little-endian address mapping

				11	12	13	14	Byte Address
07	06	05	04	03	02	01	00	00
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
0F	0E	0D	0C	0B	0A	09	08	08
'D'	'C'	'B'	'A'	31	32	33	34	
17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	10
		51	52		'G'	'F'	'E'	
1F	1E	1D	1C	1B	1A	19	18	18
				61	62	63	64	
				23	22	21	20	20

Alternative View of Memory Map



(a) Big-endian

(b) Little-endian

Standard...What Standard?

- Pentium (80x86), VAX are little-endian
- IBM 370, Moterola 680x0 (Mac), and most RISC are big-endian
- Internet is big-endian
 - Makes writing Internet programs on PC more awkward!
 - WinSock provides htoi and itoh (Host to Internet & Internet to Host) functions to convert