

# How do I break an integer into its component bytes?

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 [devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20041117-00](http://devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20041117-00)

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Warning: .NET content ahead. For some reason, this gets asked a lot.

To break an integer into its component bytes, you can use [the `BitConverter.GetBytes` method](#):

```
int i = 123456;  
byte[] bytes = BitConverter.GetBytes(i);
```

After this code fragment, the byte array contains `{ 0x40, 0xE2, 0x01, 0x00 }`.

**Update 11am:** The endian-ness of the result is determined by [the `BitConverter.IsLittleEndian` property](#). Thanks to reader Sean McVey for pointing this out.

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