

How do I determine the processor's cache line size?

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When doing high-performance computing, you need to worry about the CPU cache line size in order to avoid issues like *false sharing*. But how can you determine the processor's cache size? The `GetLogicalProcessorInformation` function will give you characteristics of the logical processors in use by the system. You can walk the `SYSTEM_LOGICAL_PROCESSOR_INFORMATION` returned by the function looking for entries of type `RelationCache`. Each such entry contains a `ProcessorMask` which tells you which processor(s) the entry applies to, and in the `CACHE_DESCRIPTOR`, it tells you what type of cache is being described and how big the cache line is for that cache.

Windows 7 adds the function `GetLogicalProcessorInformationEx` which does the `RelationCache` filtering for you.

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