Subject: Re: Would you consider this a bug? Posted by David Kastrup on Mon, 05 Oct 1998 07:00:00 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

## muswick@uhrad.com writes:

- > Actually I don't think it is a bug. One needs to carefully review
- > how IDL handles arrays and indices.

An artifact not mentioned in the language description is a bug. Imagining how this bug might come about does not make it go away.

> If we go back to the original posted question:

```
>
>> a = [3,4,5]
>> a[[2,1,0]] = a
>> a will be set to [3,4,3]
```

> Which is correct, based on 'a' being overwritten. This is avoid huge memory

> overhead in many cases where the right side equation is complex.

It is a reasonable optimization in general, but an optimization that changes the results of the command is a bug. Being able to understand how this bug comes about does not make it "correct". IDL needs to find out where this optimization is inappropriate and not do it where harm does ensue.

You cannot define correctness of a program based on the artifacts of some optimizer. An optimizer has to work behind the scenes.

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