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Subject: Re: Unknown #INFO

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 13 Nov 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Hi Folks,

Here is a recent e-mail sent to me and posted with his permission from someone who \*absolutely\* knows what is going on here with this NAN business:

- > Different operating systems use different representations for
- > Nan and Infinity. Some, like Windows or HP-UX are quite bizzare, and not all
- > can be output and then input successfully, even on the platform that produces
- > them. This is all a function of the standard C library (stdio) on the given
- > platform. It has always been thus...
- >
- > For IDL 5.2, I pulled the reading and writing of this stuff into IDL
- > code rather than leaving it to the stdio on the target platform. That
- > accounts for the pleasing consistency that you've observed in IDL 5.2Beta.
- > There is a new keyword to PRINT and STRING (STDIO\_NON\_FINITE) that overrides
- > this and allows the stdio to produce the native output. I don't expect many
- > people to use this keyword, but it's there in case you have some other
- > program on a given platform that understands (for example) "1.#INFO"
- > but not "Infinity".
- >
- > I also made IDL on input understand all the various odd platform specific
- > representations for this, so you can read a "1.#INFO" produced on a
- > Windows box on other platforms (like say, Solaris) without any extra effort.
- >
- > A related improvement is that the FINITE function has new keywords
- > ("INFINITY" and "NAN") to make dedecting them in a cross platform way
- > easier.
- >
- > There's a section on this stuff in the "What's New" book, but most people
- > have not seen it yet.

Cheers,

David

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