
Subject: Re: A bug in Mac OS version?

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 15 Dec 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Saeid Zoonematkermani (Saeid.Zoonematkermani@sunysb.edu) writes:

```
> This is a rather curious bug that I noticed after I upgraded to 5.2. Of
> course this may not be a bug but if I am being really stupid, please let
> me know.
>
> IDL> print, !version
> { PowerMac MacOS MacOS 5.2 Oct 30 1998}
> IDL> print, '0000FF'x
>    255
> IDL> print, '00FF00'x
>   -256
> IDL> print, 'FF0000'x
>  16711680
>
> Shouldn't '00FF00'x be equivalent to 65280? Is this behavior also repeated
> on other platforms?
```

Yes, I noticed this the other day too on my Windows NT machine.
I was well into a nasty note to RSI technical support when I
thought to do just a bit more testing.

In fact, this value you are trying to create here is really
a LONG integer. You, of course, are creating it as a SHORT
integer. Now, I'll give you that IDL didn't used to behave
so boarishly, but what it is doing (i.e. wrapping), IMHO,
is entirely within its rights. I'm guessing that something
changed internally with the new unsigned integer stuff.

In any case, you get what you expect if you make these
values LONG integers:

```
IDL> Print, '00FF00'xL
      65280
IDL> Print, 'FF0000'xL
  16711680
```

Cheers,

David

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[Note: This follow-up was e-mailed to the cited author.]
