

Jack Saba <jack@icesat1.gsfc.nasa.gov> writes:

>
> Given the post by Richard French noting that IDL 5.3 is due out in
> October,
> maybe it's time to send RSI a wish list. Here are a few items
> I've thought of. At least some have been mentioned in the newsgroup
> before.
>
> ... eight requests deleted ...

I agree with what's been said so far. How about a few more requests,
in increasing order of drastic-ness. These are still mostly
language-completeness issues, not feature requests.

1. Procedures and functions which do not accept any keywords, should
at least accept `_EXTRA=<undefined>`. At the moment IDL crashes
when this happens.
2. `CONGRID()` returns interpolates which are off by half a pixel.
I argue this is incorrect, and it should be fixed.
3. An interrogation routine to determine whether a file is open or
not. `HELP, /FILES` is not enough
4. Additional keyword to `MAKE_ARRAY`, `DBLARR`, etc, which enforces strict
dimensions. The final dimension should not be dropped!
5. Ability to query current line number and filename, for reporting
error messages. The `HELP` procedure is sometimes overkill.
6. Ability to implicitly index an array relative to its last element:
`a(0:* -2) = 1` ; sets all but last two elements to 1
7. The `WHERE()` function
 - * should return a `NULL` value upon request, instead of `-1`.
`a(NULL) = 1` ; would have no effect
 - * should have a `COMPLEMENT` keyword, to return indices of
array elements that fail the test.

`A_IS_1 = WHERE( A EQ 1, COMPLEMENT=A_NOT_1)`

This can save performing WHERE() twice on large arrays.

8. Ability to access strings as arrays, rather than with STRMID()
and STRPUT.

Craig

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