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Subject: String constant troubles

Posted by [zowie](#) on Sun, 23 Jan 1994 02:28:23 GMT

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Whenever I deal with IDL, I'm always impressed both with the completeness of it, and with the boneheadedness of it. Sometimes I'm struck with the urge to take all the programmers out back and throttle them!

Here's a quote from the IDL User's Guide, p. 2-6:

QUOTATION MARK (")

The quotation mark precedes octal numbers, which are always integers, and delimits string constants. Example: "100B is a byte constant equal to 64 base 10 and "Don't drink the water" is a string constant.

So far so good. They don't mention that "100B" is neither byte constant (possible) nor string constant (right and correct and good). Instead, it's a SYNTAX ERROR!

What were they thinking?

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DON'T DRINK SOAP! DILUTE DILUTE! OK!

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