
Subject: Re: rstrpos: version 5.2 and version 5.3

Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Thu, 24 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

```
>
> J.D. Smith (jdsmith@astro.cornell.edu) writes:
>
>> It's there.
>>
>> You just need to add lib/obsolete under rsi/idl to your IDL search path, or,
>> equivalently, search all sub-paths of lib. I do this as a matter of course, to
>> ensure such things don't happen.
>
> Yes, or alternatively (this is what I decided to do recently),
> include the code in the source that uses it. I did this because
> I *know* people don't have the OBSOLETE directory on their
> path and I get tired of finding 10 e-mails in the morning
> asking why my programs don't work. :-(
>
> I resorted to this after first trying something like this:
>
> IF Float(!Version.Release) GT 5.2 THEN BEGIN
>   dot = StrPos(line, ".", /Reverse_Search)
> ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
>   dot = RStrPos(line, ".")
> ENDELSE
>
> Although that *seemed* like a good idea at the time,
> I found that the line won't compile in versions of
> IDL older than IDL 5.3. :-(
>
```

IDL objects to the mentioning of a function it can't find. Simply use `call_function` and it can't complain (how can it object to a string?).

```
IF Float(!Version.Release) GT 5.2 THEN $
dot=call_function("StrPos",line,".",/Reverse_Search) $
ELSE $
dot=call_function("RStrPos",line, ".")
```

JD

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```
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```
