
Subject: Re: David: for your book ?

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Wed, 16 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Craig Markwardt wrote:

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>
> Martin Schultz <martin.schultz@dkrz.de> writes:
>> As an aside, I recently found another problem in terms of backward
>> compability (I am
>> sure something similar was already mentioned in this newsgroup, but this
>> was the first
>> time I had this problem):
>>   I tried to write a routine that takes advantage of the new StrMatch
>> and StRegex
>> functions in 5.3. In order to ensure backward compatibility, I enclosed
>> these function calls
>> with
>>   IF !Version.Release GE 5.3 THEN BEGIN
>>   ENDIF
>>
>> However, a colleague tells me: no chance! The program will report a
>> syntax error when run in
>> IDL 5.2! So, the problem is that IDL looks for a function of this name
>> during compile stage
>> and doesn't care if it will ever be used.
> ...
>
> There is a way to do this without defining an external function, by
> using FORWARD_FUNCTION properly:
>
> FORWARD_FUNCTION strege, strmatch
> IF !Version.Release GE 5.3 THEN BEGIN
>   foo = strege(bar)
>   sm = strmatch(eg)
> ENDIF
>
> This will make sure that IDL will always recognize strmatch & strege
> as functions during the compilation stage, and there will be no syntax
> errors in any IDL version. It is harmless in IDL 5.3. If you really
> want the warning message, then by all means go ahead and make your own
> strmatch definitions et al.
>
> Have fun,
> Craig
>
> --
```

Don't write it yourself

Take the strmatch routine from the deutsch library
<http://www.astro.washington.edu/deutsch/idl/htmlhelp/slibrar y24.html>

Reimar
