Subject: Re: IDL 5.2 array definition question.
Posted by Paul van Delst on Mon, 28 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Craig Markwardt wrote:
>
> Paul van Delst <pvandelst@ncep.noaa.gov> writes:
>
>> Hi,
>>
>> I'm sure this is a another hoary old chestnut of a question but here
>> goes....
>>
>> I have an IDL routine that returns the atomic weight of a requested
>> element - defined by symbol, name, or atomic number. I check the
>> validity of all these. Can somebody tell me why - in IDL 5.2 - my array
>> containing the valid symbol names has to be defined like:
> ...
>
> Short answer: the IDL parser had a limit on the number of array
> elements that could be specified explicitly. The number was 129 I
> believe. It may be that this restriction was relaxed in IDL 5.3.

The documentation (that I read before posting the original message) actually specifies this except the number that they guarenteed across versions was only 25!. My (badly formed) question can be rephrased as:

why?

Like I alluded to previously, IDL 5.3 raised the limit to 65536 (or thereabouts) which is way larger than any array initialisation anyone would want to type by hand, but I would still like to know what design decisions the pre-5.3 behaviour was based on. That's all.

paulv

--
Paul van Delst Ph: (301) 763-8000 x7274
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP Fax: (301) 763-8545
Rm.202, 5200 Auth Rd. Email: pvandelst@ncep.noaa.gov
Camp Springs MD 20746