
Subject: Re: Odd string/index problem

Posted by [marc schellens\[1\]](#) on Thu, 14 Sep 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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wmc@bas.ac.uk wrote:

```
>
> Can someone explain this to me:
>
> wmc> a='stoat'
> wmc> print,a([0]),'>'
> stoat
>>
> wmc> print,a(0),'>'
> stoat>
>
> This irritation surfaced when I tried to do
> i=where(strings eq somestring)
> print,strings(i)
>
> which needs to be
> i=i[0]
> print,strings(i)
>
> but why?
>
> -W.
>
> --
> William M Connolley | wmc@bas.ac.uk | http://www.nerc-bas.ac.uk/icd/wmc/
> Climate Modeller, British Antarctic Survey | Disclaimer: I speak for myself
```

This is because your i is an array, while i[0] is a scalar.
therefore strings(i) is a string array, while strings(i[0]) is a scalar.

```
IDL> strings=strarr(10)
IDL> help,strings(1)
<Expression>  STRING  = "
IDL> help,strings([1])
<Expression>  STRING  = Array[1]
```

after printing an array, IDL always starts a new line
cheers,
:-) marc
