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Subject: Re: something like perl's 'require 5.4'

Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Tue, 17 Apr 2001 02:57:29 GMT

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Craig Markwardt wrote:

```
>
> Vapuser <vapuser@catspaw.jpl.nasa.gov> writes:
>> Hi all.
>>
>> I'm looking for something that check the version of the current IDL
>> session against an input version, like perl's 'require 5.4'
>> semantics and I *thought* I saw someone mention using something very
>> much like this.
>>
>> Does anyone know of such a thing or was I just hallucinating?
>
> Extending on JD's answer with two more possibilities:
>
> if      !version.release LT '5.4' then message, 'ERROR'
> if double(!version.release) LT 5.4 then message, 'ERROR'
>
> The first comparison is a string compare, while the second one is a
> numeric compare. There is a slight difference, but in practice they
> are identical, and they also both handle the case of 5.4.1, etc. The
> former will handle 5.4.1a, but I think it's rare. I always use the
> latter.
```

Hmmm...

```
IDL> print,double('5.4') lt double ('5.4.1')
0
IDL> print,double('5.4') eq double ('5.4.1')
1
```

Hopefully RSI won't try to pull the latter on us.

On the other hand, your string method looks good. The best counter example I could come up with is:

```
IDL> print,'5.5a' lt '5.5B'
0
```

Not too likely. I think I'll adopt the string version.

Thanks,

JD

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