
Subject: Re: forcing variable definition in IDL?

Posted by [William Daffer](#) on Tue, 01 May 2001 17:18:10 GMT

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davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) writes:

[...]

> Don't bother. IDL scalars *are* single element arrays:
>
> IDL> a=5
> IDL> a[0] = 6 & Print, a
>

Um... Not true.

```
IDL> a=['foo|bar']
IDL> print,strsplit(a,'|',/extract)
% STRTOK: Expression must be a scalar in this context: STRING.
% Execution halted at: STRSPLIT      24
 /usr/local/rsi/idl_5.3/lib/strsplit.pro
%
$MAIN$  
IDL> retail
IDL> print,strsplit(a[0],'|',/extract)
foo bar
IDL>
```

There are some other RSI supplied code where one sees this behavior.

By the way, this is idl 5.3. I haven't checked idl 5.4.

whd

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Outside of a dog a book is man's best friend.

Inside of a dog it's too dark to read

Groucho Marx
