
Subject: Re: code snippet

Posted by [Dick Jackson](#) on Tue, 29 May 2001 21:21:50 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hi,

Ken Mankoff wrote...

```
> Hi everyone,
>
> i just ran across this in an IDL (its inside 'map_continents.pro')
> procedure, and thought its behaviour was pretty neat. [...]
>
> IDL> key = 2
> IDL> ;; set 'key' to 0 or 1 or 2 or ...
> IDL> possibilities = ['first','second','third','fourth']
> IDL> choice = (possibilities)[key]
> IDL> help, choice
> CHOICE      STRING   = 'third'
```

Perhaps less neat is the (equivalent) simple array access:

```
choice = (possibilities)[key]
```

But neater still is subscripting an array built on-the-spot
(again equivalent to the original):

```
choice = ([ 'first','second','third','fourth' ])[key]
```

Note that all parentheses and brackets are required here.

Cheers,

--

-Dick

Dick Jackson / dick@d-jackson.com
D-Jackson Software Consulting / <http://www.d-jackson.com>
Calgary, Alberta, Canada / +1-403-242-7398 / Fax: 241-7392
