
Subject: Re: Am I stupid?

Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Wed, 11 Jul 2001 16:48:26 GMT

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Paul van Delst wrote:

...

>> On second reading, the documentation ("IDL> ? abbreviating keywords") exactly
>> describes Craig's suggestion. The full keyword TIME cannot be abbreviated to a
>> shorter unique length, whereas TIMESTEP can be abbreviated to the shortest
>> unique length TIMES. Nowhere in the documentation can I find the behaviour that
>> the keyword TIME may not be used, simply because... because... well, for no reason
>> at all actually.

>

> Umm, I haven't had my requisite 4 cups of coffee yet this morning so I may be fading in
> and out here, but if you specify a keyword TIME=something, how is the interpreter supposed
> to know if you are specifying TIME, TIMEUNIT abbreviated to "TIME", or TIMESTEP
> abbreviated to "TIME"? My initial fix would be to rename TIME to TIMEVALUE and stick an
> easy to see comment somewhere in the header warning users about abbreviating these
> keywords too much.

It would know that TIME cannot be an abbreviated keyword, because it's
too short to be unique. Therefore, it must be the full keyword.
