Subject: Re: Declaration of variables in IDL
Posted by R.G.S. on Wed, 03 Oct 2001 16:10:22 GMT
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Hans de Boer <boer@kfih.azr.nl> wrote in message
news:3BBB0EC8.1CCB5E11@kfih.azr.nl...
> Hi there,
>
> I have been working with IDL for quite a while now, but never
> encountered a way of fixing variable types in IDL. Especially when
> adding new variables to old pieces of code, it can be very confusing if
> a variable of that name was already in use. IDL simply changes the
> variable type (including changes of array dimension) if required and
> possible. If not possible, you are the lucky one to get run-time errors,
> but if possible, the code seems to run quite nicely and the poor
> programmer is left with apparently correct results.
> I also have found that people new to IDL have generated extremely sneaky
> bugs this way.
> Does anybody know of making IDL performing an explicit variable check
> during compilation ?
>
> Thanks
>
> Hans deB

As answered, IDL allows type changing. Such is life.

This may be too simple to help you, but your function can
explicitly check variable type. For instance:

```
function foo_wrapper,dnumber,fnumber,stringvar

if size(dnumber,/type) ne 5 then message,'ERROR: DNUMBER type changed or
undefined.'
if size(fnumber,/type) ne 4 then message,'ERROR: FNUMBER type changed  or
undefined.'
if size(stringvar ,/type) ne 7 then message,'ERROR: STRINGVAR type changed
or undefined.'
return,realfunction_foo(dnumber,fnumber,stringvar)
end
```

Cheers,
bob