
Subject: Re: Declaration of variables in IDL

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 03 Oct 2001 13:21:08 GMT

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Hans de Boer (boer@kfi.hazr.nl) writes:

> 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 ?

I think you need to switch to Pascal. :-)

IDL, as a weakly-typed language, is inherently messy. That's the downside. The upside is that it is also powerful for this very reason. No question you can get into trouble if you are not careful, but this applies to love as well as software, and we find a way to make do.

Cheers,

David

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