
Subject: Re: Octals

Posted by [Martin Downing](#) on Thu, 11 Oct 2001 18:37:31 GMT

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"Reimar Bauer" <r.bauer@fz-juelich.de> wrote in message
news:3BC5C1D5.9FB46B1C@fz-juelich.de...

> Martin Downing wrote:

>>

>> IDL> title = "frequency " + string('52'Ob) + " wavelength"

>

> Normaly we should always use ' for strings.

>

> Because " with numbers gives an octal number, e.g.

>

> IDL> print, "10

> 8

Well if anyone reading my code misread "frequency" as an octal number,
then I humbly appollogise!

Your right though, but Im afraid use of double quotes for strings is deep
seated

for me from C/C++. NOw we are on the topic, I've got to say that
interpreting "01 as shorthand for

octal 01 was just a daft overload of the language, it really seems
half-baked, look at these examples for illustration:

IDL> help, "1034

<Expression> INT = 540

; OK....

IDL> help, "1034r

help, "1034r

^

% Syntax error.

; fair enough

IDL> help, "10349673

<Expression> INT = 540

; *&*&??????

IDL> help, "910349673

<Expression> STRING = '910349673'

IDL LOGIC: "Digits 8 or 9 indicate that the string is indeed a string if
they appear first, if they appear later on then let's just discard them -
surely the programmer didnt want them anyway..."

cheers

