
Subject: Re: Octals

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Fri, 12 Oct 2001 05:20:44 GMT

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"Martin Downing" <martin.downing@ntlworld.com> writes:

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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:
> ... deleted ...
```

I wholeheartedly agree, the double-quotes-is-octal thing is definitely a loser. The single-quotes-is-hexadecimal works for me, but somehow I am pretty used to it. While I am always pretty much aligned with 100% backwards compatibility, octal constants are one thing that I definitely feel should be removed (except for the Mac OS X version?).

If you see them in new code, run, don't hide. If you see them in old code, change them fast! They can be achieved much more reliably with single quotes.

Craig

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