Craig Markwardt wrote:
[stuff deleted]
> In fact, I am not sure that IDL makes any guarantees about order of
> evaluation and side effects.

For an explanation of operator precedence:

IDL> ? operator precedence

In short, it's not the order of evaluation that matters: it's the
precedence of the operators in the expression. The order matters only
when you have operators of equal precedence, in which case the
expression is evaluated from left to right.

As the documentation says, "when in doubt, parenthesize".

Cheers,
Liam.
Practical IDL Programming
http://www.gumley.com/