
Subject: Re: Array indexing "Feature"

Posted by [Jeff Jones](#) on Wed, 12 Dec 2001 23:03:22 GMT

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Andrew Cool wrote:

```
> Hi All,
>
> One of my colleagues has noted something apparently screwy in the
> indexing of
> arrays.
>
> e.g.  a = indgen(10)
>       print, a(9)    -> you get 9
>       print, a(10)   -> you get an error, as expected for a zero-based
> index
>
> but if you access the array with the index as a vector, it seems to
> truncate the index to the maximum    allowable:
>
>       print, a([10]) -> you get 9
>       print, a([666]) -> you get 9
>
> Similarly:
>
>       print, a(-1)   -> you get an error
>       print, a([-1]) -> you get 0
>
> This feature holds good for IDL 5.2 and 5.4 on OpenVMS and for 5.5 on
> Windows.
>
> Where, Oh where in the manuals does it describe this?
>
> Andrew
```

It's funny -- my office mate noticed the same thing just yesterday.

It is documented, in the section on "Array Subscripts" in "Building IDL Applications". (The exact page depends on the version of the doc. My v5.0 book has it on page 62.)
