
Subject: Re: _EXTRA inheritance crashing IDL
Posted by [Rob.Preece](#) on Fri, 12 Apr 2002 15:20:33 GMT
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In article <a950i2\$6j6\$1@newsreader.mailgate.org>, "Mark Hadfield"
<m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz> wrote:

>
> Yes it's a bug. Report it to IDL.
>

I did, and found that it is a known issue, to be fixed in version 5.6.
David asked for RSI's response to be posted, so here goes:

RE: Incident #: 120580 Tech Support Submission

I believe in your case, however, that you are actually
experiencing the symptoms of a known bug that appeared first in IDL 5.5, and
has already been identified and recoded for subsequent release in IDL 5.6.
Here is the bug report:

"Title: "Passing _REF_EXTRA keyword name without specifying keyword crashes
IDL"

Description:

Compile the following procedures in IDL:

```
pro test2, junk=junk
    print, 'hi'
end
pro test, _REF_EXTRA=_extra
    test2, _Extra='junk'
end
```

Calling "test" without passing the JUNK keyword causes a SegFault on Solaris
and dereference error (at 0xffffffc) on Windows, and crashes IDL.

Resolution:

This is an internal logic error, in which IDL was looking for _REF_EXTRA
variables to pass on even though the current frame has no such variables."

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Note: I have snipped out some comments and suggestions that James made, as

they were not appropos to my problem; see below.

> Re the need to do it this way, if you're passing specific keywords
> then you don't *need* to use inheritance. Eg this...
>
<snip>

OK. My example code simply illustrated the crash, it does not show the rationale behind it. Suffice it to say that I hit upon this method by reading the documentation, and it solved much head-banging that had been going on. The short answer as to why I do it this way is that I have a quite generic plotting method that can be called under many circumstances; some keywords must not be passed on, while an unknown number (and unknowable, except at runtime) of others can. It was a perfect match for the _REF_EXTRA mechanism...

>
> Warning: if you use this last technique with IDL 5.4 you must use
> inheritance by value not reference because there was a bug in 5.4.
>
> Of course with the different bugs in different versions you may well
> decide to leave your code as it is and stick with 5.4!
>

Ack! This is what I will do. Thanks all!

```
=====
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