Subject: Re: Unsupported keyword on older IDL version
Posted by Paul Hick on Tue, 30 Jul 2002 02:41:25 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Craig Markwardt wrote:

> Paul Hick <pphick@ucsd.edu> writes:
>
>
>> This kind of problem must have come up in this group before, but here it
>> is anyways.
>>
>> If I call the IDL systime function with the utc keyword:
>> print, systime(/utc)
>>
>> on IDL versions older than 5.4 I get the expected 'keyword not
>> supported' error message, since, well, it's not supported, right? The
>> error message pops up when the function containing the systime call is
>> compiled, so testing e.g. !version.release before executing the systime
>> call doesn't work.
>>
>> The only solution I have come up with so far is to put the systime call
>> inside a call_function call:
>> print, call_function('systime', /utc)
>> This will compile (I will still need to test for !version.release before
>> actually executing the statement of course).
>>
>
> Another possibility is to use the _EXTRA mechanism:
>
>   ;; Assume EXTRA is undefined
>   if double(!version.release) GE 5.4 then $
>   extra = {utc: 1}
>   value = systime(_EXTRA=extra)
>
> Anyway you cut it, you will need an IDL version check.
>
> Craig
>
>

The _extra mechanism is a fairly recent addition to IDL, isn't it? So
that would just move the problem to a different arena.

The systime function is 'special' in the sense that it is a 'built-in'
IDL function (there is no systime.pro file floating around anywhere that
I can see). That suggests another solution. The systime(/utc) call could
be hidden in a separate user-written function systime_for_idl5_4.

Calling this after checking !version.release would also work, since the user-written routine would never get compiled on pre5.4 versions.

Paul