
Subject: Re: Unsupported keyword on older IDL version
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Mon, 29 Jul 2002 20:17:00 GMT
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On Mon, 29 Jul 2002 08:14:12 -0700, 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.
```

Unless you use _STRICT_EXTRA, the inheritance mechanism doesn't care if you pass it bogus keywords... in fact, that deficiency is what prompted the creation of _STRICT_EXTRA. Here you can use it to your advantage.

```
IDL> print,systime(/UTCABC)
% Keyword UTCABC not allowed in call to: SYSTIME % Execution halted at:
$MAIN$
IDL> print,systime(_EXTRA={UTCABC:1})
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IDL> print,systime(_STRICT_EXTRA={UTCABC:1}) % Keyword UTCABC not allowed
in call to: SYSTIME % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

Unfortunately, for this case, it doesn't work, because SYSTIME went from having none to some keywords, so in old versions of IDL (prior to the introduction of keywords to SYSTIME), you get:

```
IDL> print,systime(_EXTRA={UTC:1})
```

```
print,systime(_EXTRA={UTC:1})  
              ^
```

% Keyword parameters not allowed in call.

For routines with new keywords, which always had keywords, this should work.

JD
