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Subject: Re: Unsupported keyword on older IDL version  
Posted by [thompson](#) on Mon, 29 Jul 2002 14:40:16 GMT  
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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).

> This to me looks like a somewhat illegitimate use of call\_function. Not  
> that I mind bending the rules a bit, but are there any other (better)  
> techniques of dealing with keywords that don't work in all IDL versions.

Why do you call this "illegitimate"? To me this seems like just the sort of thing that call\_function() was designed for. I've always done it this way in the past. In fact, I've usually used execute() in the past, but call\_function() is more elegant.

Bill Thompson

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