Subject: Re: differences idl5.5 and idl5.6
Posted by K. Bowman on Wed, 19 Feb 2003 17:26:37 GMT

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In article <b30ble$dpt7$1@zam602.zam.kfa-juelich.de>,
 Reimar Bauer <R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de> wrote:

> on aix the result is a bit more different,
> IDL> a=1./0 & print,a,fix(a)
>   Inf   -1
>
>
> I would prefer as result NaN!

The IEEE standard defines distinct special values for Inf (result of
division by zero) and NaN (result of operations on Inf's and Nan's).
Being able to distinguish them is probably a good thing. The FINITE
function has keywords for this purpose. Without keywords, FINITE
detects both.

Unfortunately, perhaps, standard integer formats do not include
"special" values to represent inifinties, Nan's, etc. You have to
handle them yourself. Hence all those ASCII data sets filled with
-999's!

Conversion of IEEE Inf's and NaN's to integers may well be system
dependent.

Ken