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Subject: Re: no backwards compatibility in IDL 5.6  
Posted by [James Kuyper](#) on Thu, 27 Feb 2003 15:12:34 GMT  
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Alexander Rauscher wrote:

>  
> sorry for posting the same thing twice under different subjects, but i  
> think this is important...  
>  
> many of idl programs have to be adapted due do the non existing  
> backwards compatibility of atan (and probably many other functions) .  
> one wouldn't expect a change in such a fundamental function. so now  
> atan(z, /phase) gives the same result as atan(z) in older versions did,  
> where z is (re,im)... this is worse than stupid. this is dangerous.

As you've described it, that doesn't qualify as an example of backwards incompatibility. If /phase is a new option with 5.6 (and it isn't mentioned in the online help for our 5.4 system), then there won't be any existing code using that option. Therefore, atan(z,/phase) could play Beethoven's 5th, and not be a violation of backwards compatibility.

What would be an example of incompatibility, is if you need to provide the /phase option to get that behavior. Is that what you're saying? If so, I'd agree with you that it is stupid, and dangerous.

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