
Subject: Re: no backwards compatibility in IDL 5.6
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Fri, 28 Feb 2003 20:35:55 GMT
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On Fri, 28 Feb 2003 13:12:17 -0700, William Thompson wrote:

```
> Pavel Romashkin <pavel_romashkin@hotmail.com> writes:
>
>> Why is EXECUTE used in this program? Why can't the value just be
>> returned from each CASE? Execute will slow it down and as far as I can
>> tell, does nothing special. There is no code that follows the CASE to
>> prevent you from returning at any point. Will it not compile in 5.4 with
>> the extra keyword? I thought keyword mismatches are runtime errors. Am I
>> missing something?
>> Pavel
>
>
> Yes, without the execute statement, it will not compile in versions
> earlier than 5.4. You get the error message
>
> IDL> .run atan_complex_wrapper
>
>      (version GE 5.6): returnValue = ATAN(complexNum, /Phase)
>                                ^
> % Keyword parameters not allowed in call.
> At: /disk1/thompson/atan_complex_wrapper.pro, Line 12
> % 1 Compilation errors in module ATAN_COMPLEX_WRAPPER.
>
> However, only the last execute statement is actually required. The
> first two, without the new keyword, can be direct statements.
>
```

Aha! Another conspiracy laid to rest. IDL apparently checks whether zero, or more than zero keywords are allowed.

Try compiling:

```
pro foo
  empty,/FOO
end
```

and you'll see what I mean. Since ATAN went from having zero to more than zero keywords, this explains it. The compile vs. runtime handling of keywords (perverse as it is) has remained unchanged.

JD
