On Fri, 28 Feb 2003 12:42:42 -0700, David Fanning 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?
>
> Alright, here is why I am using EXECUTE. If I change the code to this:
>
>   returnValue = 0.0
>   version = Float(!VERSION.Release)
>   IF (version LE 5.5) THEN returnValue = ATAN(imgpart, realpart) $
>   ELSE returnValue = ATAN(complexNum, /Phase)
>
> Then the code won't compile in IDL 5.4, complaining about the PHASE
> keyword not being defined. :-(
>
>
> P.S. The code *does* compile in IDL 5.5, by the way, even though the
> PHASE keyword is not defined there, either.

Which is when _STRICT_EXTRA was first introduced. Coincidence?

My consipiracy theory: RSI switched from checking built-in system routine
keywords at compile to run-time with v5.5.   This isn't the first time
they've done this type of thing: around v5.3, they switched from checking
the validity of system variables at compile time to run time (which was
rather convenient, actually).

JD