
Subject: Re: arrays vs. functions conflicts

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 05 Mar 2004 15:44:41 GMT

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Paolo Grigis writes:

> But sometimes it happens that I run *another* program before,
> which compile a function called limits. If then I compile the
> procedure, the compiler thinks limits is a function and all
> hell break loose.

Ah, yes, well. This is a problem not so much with square brackets (which obviously help eliminate this problem), but with the fact that IDL is perfectly happy with arrays and functions (and procedures, for that matter) having the same name.

Once a name is put into IDL's memory space as an array, it is going to be impossible to get the same name registered in its memory space as a function unless you explicitly compile the function. (Exiting IDL is not necessary.)

Then, of course, since it is listed in IDL as both a variable AND a function, you are going to have trouble telling one from the other without using square brackets.

We have been trying to solve the second problem first. :-)

The first problem can be solved by using a FORWARD_FUNCTION statement. And, if you are lucky, unlike some people we know, that might also solve your second problem.

And, of course, you can also write a polite e-mail to the people supplying your code (Craig!!) to please get with the 21st century and put square brackets on their arrays. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
