
Subject: Re: what's wrong with this? --- ' vs " problem
Posted by [mmiller3](#) on Tue, 04 May 2004 14:54:30 GMT
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>>>> > "David" == David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> writes:

> Michael A. Miller writes:
>> Ok, this I don't get. Is it a 'feature' or a "bug"? I
>> vote for bug in how IDL parses octal numbers.

> Well, if it's a bug, it's been a bug for the last 20
> years. :-)

That's what I thought. And I can't for the life of me figure out why it took so many years for me to notice it! Blech.

I did find some documentation in chapter 3 of "Building IDL Applications", but there is more. In talking to my neighbors about this, it was pointed out that the final ' or " is not required to correctly delimit a string, so that all of the following are the same string constant:

"Don't drink the water"
"Don't drink the water"
'Don't drink the water'
'Don't drink the water'

I could happily go along being unaware of this, except I wrote a script that calls some IDL like this

```
echo indypet_projections, \"$img\" > do_this.pro  
echo exit >> do_this.pro  
idl do_this.pro > do_this.log 2>&1
```

sometimes this fails, depending on what the string in img is. So I fixed it by replacing the "s with 's. But I'm not yet convinced that I won't have cases where I need to use " to delimit some string and ' to delimit others. So I wonder if I need to write an IDL-like parser that can decide in advance how to delimit strings so that IDL likes them. Of course if IDL had a built-in mechanism for handling command line arguments, I could let the RSI gang do that for me...

None of this fits my bias about how IDL is supposed to work, which is exactly like I want it to that is ... I'm grudgingly willing to count as a feature :-)

Mike
