
Subject: Re: IDL removes dimensions of size 1 automatically
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Sun, 26 Sep 2004 22:46:46 GMT
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Benjamin Hornberger wrote:

- > I had a hard time finding a bug which came from IDL's behaviour to
- > remove dimensions of size 1 automatically sometimes.
- >
- > ...
- >
- > I found this very annoying. Does anyone know more about it? Why is it
- > like that?

Since others have already responded on these points I will be brief:

So do I.

No, I think you know as much as anyone.

Why indeed?

- > In which situations will IDL do that?

I think the only answer you can rely on is "Whenever you don't want it to".

Seriously, you can **create** arrays with a trailing dimension of size 1 and you can pass them in and out of routines, but beyond that you should assume that IDL will lose the trailing dimension.

I support the idea of a compiler option to turn this behaviour off. I suspect, however, that implementing it would open up a Pandora's box of worms, as the saying goes.

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