Subject: Re: Implicit None for IDL??? Posted by afl on Tue, 27 Jun 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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```
In article <3snheg$63a@senator-bedfellow.MIT.EDU>, davis@space.mit.edu (John E.
Davis) writes:
|> Hi,
|>
> Is there anyway to get IDL 4.0 to signal and error if a variable is
|> undefined? I realize that IDL will generate a runtime error for this kind
l> of mistake:
|>
|>
    some_variable = 3
   ; Now double its value
|>
    some_variable = 2 * some_vriable
|>
                                             ; Oops spelling error!
|>
> However, this mistake will not be caught by idl:
|>
    some variable = 3
|>
|>
   ; Now double its value
    some_vriable = 2 * some_variable
|>
|>
> If this is not possible, is there a lint for the language, e.g., something
> to generate a message like:
|>
    something.pro: line 27: `some_vriable' unused.
1>
|>
> Thanks,
l> --John
|>
|>
```

This question deserves serious consideration as "QUESTION OF THE YEAR!"

I use implicit none in all my FORTRAN development... it is the safest way to create massive amounts of error-free code, but I have never seen a way to implement this in IDL, and that is one reason I believe IDL is not well suited for development of large applications. Another problem is that variables can suddenly change type within IDL, consider this simple example...

```
    j = 1L & foo = 1.
    i = 2*2 & help, i ; i is a Short integer
    i = i*j & help, i ; i is a Long integer
    i = i * foo & help, i ; i is Real
```

this feature is great for many situations, but again, in a large application this may not be what is wanted by an uncareful programmer,

but it is a difficult thing to control within 10,000 lines of code. IDL is a powerful language, but it does require one to be mighty careful.

The fix, long, float, complex, etc... functions must be used wisely!

I hope you receive an answer (rather than a reply like this one) to your interesting question.

--

Andrew F. Loughe University of Colorado, CIRES Campus Box 449

Boulder, CO 80309-0449 USA

email: afl@cdc.noaa.gov voice: (303) 492-0707 fax: (303) 497-7013