
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 an error if a variable is
> undefined? I realize that IDL will generate a runtime error for this kind
> 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.
>
> Thanks,
> --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 uncaredful 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.

--

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