
Subject: Re: Where's the syntax error? No stringst that only contain numbers?

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Tue, 19 Sep 2006 18:15:47 GMT

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On Mon, 18 Sep 2006 10:57:06 -0600, David Fanning wrote:

> IDL thinks you are trying to create an octal constant,
> not a string. Use single quotes here and you will be
> set. :-)

Whoever invented the notation "n for an octal constant should be taken out and shot, or at least go through an extreme de-tox treatment to remove whatever substance must have been influencing them at the time.

Consider this cornucopia of consistency:

```
IDL> a="12
IDL> help,a
A          INT      =    10
IDL> a= "18
IDL> help,a
A          INT      =     1
IDL> a= "81
IDL> help,a
A          STRING   = '81'
```

not to mention that all those loose double-quotes really mess up string formatting. I recommend the far more sensible:

```
IDL> a='12'O
```

possibly coupled with a stern note to ITTVIS suggesting they provide an option to disable the former brain-dead notation.

JD
