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Subject: Re: Principle of Least Surprise  
Posted by [Jean H.](#) on Tue, 09 Jan 2007 23:14:00 GMT  
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... and  
a[3:5].x=bindgen(3)  
works perfectly!

It makes sense though... consider this case:

```
IDL> b=replicate({x:intarr(10)},10)
IDL> b[3].x = indgen(4)
```

IDL must understand that the specified array is the values of X in b[3].  
If what you had written was working, IDL would not know if it is the  
values of X or if it is the 1st value of 4 entries of b...

Jean

JD Smith wrote:

```
>
> Violated again. Consider:
>
> IDL> a=replicate(1b,10)
> IDL> a[3]=bindgen(3)
> IDL> print,a
>  1  1  1  0  1  2  1  1  1  1
>
> but now:
>
> IDL> a=replicate({x:1b},10)
> IDL> a[3].x=bindgen(3)
> % Expression must be a scalar in this context: <BYTE    Array[3]>.
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
>
> This ought to work.
>
> JD
>
```

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