David Fanning wrote:
> mgalloy@gmail.com writes:
>
>> Moral of the story: don't change the value of input parameters.
>
> Except, of course, when that is the POINT of the input parameter.

But, then it's not an input parameter. It's an output.

I'm f95-centric, and I know it doesn't apply completely to IDL for a number of reasons,
but I don't think people should new code where the functionality depends on *how* the
arguments are passed (i.e. by value or reference).

It's a shame IDL doesn't allow for something similar to the fortran95 intent attribute for
arguments, e.g.

```
  function myfunc(x,y,z) result(a)
    real, intent(in) :: x, y, z
    real :: a
    ...
    x = 1.0  ! Illegal. Compiler will not allow mods to intent IN argument
    ...
  end function myfunc
```

cheers,

paulv

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Paul van Delst   Ride lots.
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP/EMC   Eddy Merckx