
Subject: IDL is giving me a syntax error out of nowhere

Posted by [Ryan](#) on Mon, 15 Sep 2008 19:08:48 GMT

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Hi,

IDL is giving me problems with syntax that should not be a problem. I have a procedure GETOCCID that when it is given a Long Integer it goes out and does some searching in databases and comes back and spews out what I want. That routine is fine, but the problem lies in the call to this program. Here is what happens:

```
IDL> getoccid, 1228694696.289
No Results Found
No Results Found
The occultation with ID 1.22869e+09 is:
-999
```

```
IDL> getoccid, 1228694696.289L
```

```
getoccid, 1228694696.289L
```

^

% Syntax error.

```
IDL> getoccid, long(1228694696.289)
No Results Found
No Results Found
No Results Found
The occultation with ID 1228694656 is:
-999
```

```
IDL> getoccid, 1228694696.289UL
```

```
getoccid, 1228694696.289UL
```

^

% Syntax error.

I know what is wrong with the first command, but the last 3 should not have any problems, especially syntax problems. If you see the third call to the procedure (with the long(...) argument), the display at the end of the routine has the wrong number so it is not taking in the correct value for the argument. I used this routine last year and it

was working fine, but I can't remember the trick to get it to work.

Any insights into this problem would be greatly appreciated,
Ryan.
