
Subject: Re: IDL FOR Loop variable increments
Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Fri, 19 Sep 2008 19:09:25 GMT
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R.G. Stockwell wrote:

> "Jean H" <jghasban@DELTHIS.ucalgary.ANDTHIS.ca> wrote in message
> news:gauil\$u32\$1@news.ucalgary.ca...
> ...
>> Could you comment on the "risk" of changing the loop counter within the
>> loop?
>
> my 2 cents.
>
> First, it is in changing the counter of a for loop.
> A for loop explicitly outlines what all counter variables will be.
>
> There are two things:
>
> 1) infinite loop, one could easily change the counter to never
> reach the end condition. A (valid) for loop will always reach the end
> condition.
>
> 2) more insidious, you could inadvertantly cast the counter to a float from
> an int, and then have one extra (and unintended) statement executed.
This seems not to be possible in IDL, as loop counters, unlike normal
variables, cannot change their type.

Ciao,
Paolo

>
> instead of 0,1,2,3,4,5,6 (and not executing i = 7) you could get
> 0,1,2,3,4,4.99999999,5.99999,6.99999999, (and effectively executing the
> extra i ~ 7 step).
>
> Cheers,
> bob
