Subject: Re: a BUG or not a BUG in IDL ?
Posted by David Ritscher on Fri, 19 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT
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```
> print,'Long'
> J = 0L
> for I = 1,10 do begin
>    print,I
>    I = I + J      ; Here I am also changing the type of "I"
>    ;if i gt 20 then stop
> endfor
> end
> ;--------------------------------
> The first loop if OK, the second loop stops after the first
> iteration, but the last loop, just keeps going forever...

> Any comments ?
> At least should be a "WARNING" in the manual...
```

I would call it not a bug, on philosophical grounds. IDL / PV-Wave is
not a strong-typed language. This has advantages and disadvantages.
One strong disadvantage is any strange behavior that results from
doing things one shouldn't do with crossing variable types.

Something I would like to see added to the language is some ability to
take more control over typing. For example, a system variable could
be created, !variable_typing. When set to 1, it would cause an error
each time that the type of a variable is changed, as in:
  a = 1
  a = 1.
% Assignment changes type of variable

I would also like to see a mechanism for controlling variable typing,
for example, !min_variable_type
where if this is set to the type of long integer, a=1 would create a
long integer, instead of the irksome and antiquated default of short
integer.

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