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Page 1 of 2 ---- Generated from [comp.lang.idl-pvwave](#) archive

Based on the documentation in IDL 70 and IDL 71 the following description is provided for the .TRACE command:

"The .TRACE command continues execution of a program that has stopped because of an error, a stop statement, or a keyboard interrupt."

This definition was located in

IDL API Reference Guides > IDL Reference Guide > Part I: IDL Command Reference > Dot Commands

This documentation is different than that which would be available in printed form. The change from the definition you had to the new definition occurred in IDL 4.0.1 for exactly the reason you provided. I hope that this helps.

Based on the implementation of the .TRACE command, it is only supposed to complete executing the code. I was able to get the code to complete as expected. It might be helpful if a verbose keyword was added to the .TRACE command so that each line of code was output prior to execution.

Best Regards,

Brandon
