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Subject: Re: IDL 8.0 compile\_opt changes  
Posted by [ddegraff](#) on Mon, 21 Dec 2009 05:33:52 GMT  
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On Dec 19, 2:11 pm, Chris Torrence <gorth...@gmail.com> wrote:

>  
> Another point of information: We are adding a lot of new language  
> features to IDL 8.0. Things like a new "foreach" operator, negative  
> array subscripting a[0:-1],  
>  
> More thoughts? More egnog?

No! negative index is a Bad Idea!

```
z= where(bad ne 0)
if z[0] ne -1 then begin
  lots of stuff
endif
```

I have a lot of code like this, which would no longer be valid if -1 were a legal array index. I could go thought and include a count in the where function but that's a lot more work than fixing all the (). Actually I was surprised that you could still use () for arrays. I tell my students to always use [].

david

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