
Subject: Re: IDL 8.0 compile_opt changes
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Sat, 19 Dec 2009 17:55:49 GMT
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On Dec 19, 11:13 am, "M. Katz" <MKatz...@yahoo.com> wrote:
> I have 400,000 lines of code in my libraries. Maybe 100,000 is
> "active." I would avoid upgrading to avoid having to convert every old
> () to [] in code I wrote years ago but still rely on.

What if 99,900 lines of code could be automatically converted using a single command? As I mentioned, my very old code idlv4_to_5 (http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/contrib/landsman/v5/idlv4_to_v5.pro) wasn't perfect, but I think most of its omissions are fixable without too much trouble. I suspect the only case where an automatic conversion couldn't work is for lines within an EXECUTE() statement.

My problem with a new extension name is that I would like to write code that would work on both post- and pre-8.0 versions. For the next few years I would envision writing code snippets like this

```
if !VERSION.RELEASE GE '8.0' then begin
;.....Use the dot for object method calls
endif else begin
;.....Use the traditional object method syntax
endelse
```

so that the code could still run in versions prior to V8.0. But these earlier IDL versions won't have any recognition of a .prx extension.

Hmmm... I could see writing code like this getting very unwieldy. Maybe instead we would need a new program IDLV7_to_V8 to automatically convert code to the new method syntax...

--Wayne
