
Subject: Re: IDL 8.0 compile_opt changes

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Wed, 06 Jan 2010 21:25:29 GMT

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On 1/6/10 7:01 AM, Maarten wrote:

> I do love the idea of negative indices, although I'd like them to mean
> the same as in Python. The samples I've seen so far are off by one.

My understanding of the negative indices proposal in IDL was that they would be the same as in Python:

```
>>> a = [1, 2, 3, 4]
```

```
>>> a[-1]
```

```
4
```

```
>>> a[-2]
```

```
3
```

By the way, this could break old code as well. It also seems like a better reason for breaking backward compatibility than the "." as a method invocation. And once backwards compatibility is broken, then we might as well make all the changes we need at once (as long as we have a good conversion tool that makes most of the changes automatically).

Mike

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