
Subject: Re: FOR loop ends one above where it's supposed to
Posted by [cameron bowles](#) on Wed, 02 Jun 2010 05:34:23 GMT
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IDL is a little different to other languages in this regard and it handles for loops in this manner;

1. generates the index variable (first value, in your case i=0)
2. generates limit value (last value, in your case 5, stored as a temporary variable)
3. generates step value (in your case 1, stored as a temporary variable)
4. checks if limit is greater than index (for positive step values, or less than for negative increments), if so then FOR loop finishes.
5. the block of statements following the DO is executed.
6. the step value is added to the index
7. repeat steps 4->6 until step 4 fails.

the difference here is IDL only uses an index variable, a lot of other languages uses a secondary temporary value to do the FOR conditional check and then updates the index only if the FOR condition is satisfied.

hope that helps,
Cam
