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Subject: Re: Warning: IDL 8.0 alters the behaviour of existing valid programs without any notice!

Posted by [svhhaugan](#) on Thu, 19 Aug 2010 11:57:19 GMT

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On Aug 18, 8:45 pm, "Jeff N." <jeffnettles4...@gmail.com> wrote:

>> For IDL 8, the rules have suddenly been changed, with no warning

>> and no way to turn it off (other than staying with version 7).

>

> I don't know how you can say there was no warning - ITTVIS has been

> advertising the negative indexing feature for months now. And it was

> completely obvious to me from the get-go that the new indexing would

> have the effect on where() calls that you're talking about. It was

> one of the first things I thought of.

I guess we haven't been spending much time reading the advertising ;-)

Anyhow, that's not the kind of warning I referred to.

I think most researchers naively expect new features in a

"programming

language" to preserve the stated semantics of existing code, or at

least

provide (optional) warning mechanisms (compile-time or run-time)

that'll flag those cases where the semantics have been changed.

The help file for IDL 7 said "code similar to the following \*can\*

be used to avoid errors", not "code similar to the following

\*should\* be used, because we do not guarantee that an error will

occur in the next version of IDL".

Stein

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