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Subject: Re: Negative array indices

Posted by [b\\_gom](#) on Fri, 03 Dec 2010 00:35:56 GMT

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On Dec 2, 3:50 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> It's always a bad sign when you are stumbling around trying  
> to figure out how to use a feature you never realized you  
> needed before. Or are you trying to write a book, too?

No, that market has already been cornered.

It was more a case of: 'Ah, this might be a situation where those new negative indices I read about might simplify things', followed quickly by the realisation that I didn't really understand what they were good for.

In general, it would be helpful if the IDL documentation went a bit further than just describing the syntax and calling sequence for the operators, commands and routines, and added a paragraph or two for each saying "And here's what it is\isn't good for:"

Another example is the new list and hash objects. The documentation does a good job describing what their methods do, but doesn't really explain what they are better for than arrays and structures, and what performance trade-offs to be aware of. I guess that is where your new book comes in..

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