Subject: !null values in arrays
Posted by Gray on Wed, 15 Dec 2010 18:11:37 GMT

Hi all,

I was just wondering if anyone else would find it useful to have the
ability to store !null as elements in otherwise homogenous arrays.
Wouldn't this be a much more elegant way of encoding missing data than
using NaNs? Of course, a lot of functionality would have to change -
like, for example, one would have to be able to do

```
IDL> print, 3 + !null
      3
```

instead of what actually occurs:

```
IDL> print, 3 + !null
% Variable is undefined: <UNDEFINED>
```

However, writing this post is worth it just to include that
tautological error message.

--Gray