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Subject: Re: Functions and arrays

Posted by [Tim Patterson](#) on Fri, 06 Dec 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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William Clodius wrote:

>

>

> Allowing '[]' to replace '()' may be a good idea, but it can provide a

> maintenance problem for old code.

>

IMHO such a change would cause too many problems with maintenance.

I'm working on a very large software package (10's of thousands of lines of IDL code) that has to run on both highest

and lowest common demoninator IDL systems (currently 4.0.1

is the lcd). If IDL 5.0+ changed the syntax, I'd have to have

2 copies of the code, not to mention the time it would take

to update the old code to the new standard. Unfortunately, due

to IDL's high prices at present, I couldn't persuade all my

users to upgrade to IDL 5.0.

I think having a choice of either () or [] would also be

confusing and bad practise. It seems to me that the compiler

checking for and flagging/resolving these problems is the

best solution. Especially as no programmer would try and give an

array and a function the same name in the same routine, would they? :)

Tim

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