
Subject: C syntax for IDL

Posted by [martin](#) on Thu, 05 Dec 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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I program mostly in IDL, but every once and a while I program in C. I find the switch to be unnecessarily painful. What I would really like is an alternative syntax for IDL that would be C-like. For example:

```
for i=0,10 do begin
  x(i)=i
endfor
```

Could become

```
for (i=0; i<10; i++) {
  x[i]=i
}
```

It seems like the mapping from one syntax to the other is pretty straight forward. You could put a command at the beginning of each program to tell it which interpreter to use.

This alternative syntax would be helpful to me in 2 ways. First, it would help me keep my C programming skills alive. Second, it would help me recruit the assistance of C programmers here where I work.

This would also solve that function-array ambiguity that everyone else is talking about.

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