
Subject: Re: Sort a HASH

Posted by [Gray](#) on Fri, 24 Jun 2011 10:52:25 GMT

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On Jun 24, 4:37 am, JDS <jdtsmith.nos...@yahoo.com> wrote:

> You appear to be asking why a HASH is not ordered. Having been familiar with HASH's from other languages, I did not expect them to be ordered. What is peculiar here, is that, without converting hashes into a more primitive data type, there is no way to order them yourselves (or rearrange them in any way, other than a loop)! That is in stark contrast to other languages.

For example, a common idiom in Perl is:

```
>
> foreach key (sort keys %hash) {
>   % do something
>
> }
>
> Is there really no equivalent in IDL?
```

Well, I was asking why when I indexed a hash were the elements not returned in the order I indexed them.
