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Subject: gotcha: indexing into a scalar  
Posted by [paul](#) on Fri, 17 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT  
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I am using IDL Version 3.6 (ultrix mipsel).  
I've discovered an IDL "feature" that caused me a bit of grief.

try the following code segment,

```
x=0
i=indgen(9)
x(i)=findgen(9)
print,x
  8

help,x
X      INT      =      8

print,x(i)
  8  8  8  8  8  8  8  8  8
```

My error was to set x to a scalar in the first line. As you can see that one mistake led to some rather bizarre behaviour. I had thought IDL would issue an error message if I tried to use an index array with a scalar. But, this example shows that scalars will accept index arrays with no complaint. Now I realize this is part of the IDL subscripting rule that subscript arrays are not bounds-checked before use. What is surprising is that the rule extends to single element arrays (scalars).

Is this feature carried over to latter versions of IDL?

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