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Subject: Re: Undocumented functions in IDL

Posted by [timothyja123](#) on Fri, 01 Mar 2013 03:52:42 GMT

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On Friday, March 1, 2013 2:29:42 PM UTC+11, timoth...@gmail.com wrote:

> I have a question for the IDL developers about an undocumented functions in IDL. While I'm fairly new to IDL I'm maintaining IDL code that was written before I even knew the language existed. Up until now I had assumed the function was implemented in our code somewhere (due to the IDE not highlighting it) until I went searching for it today.

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>  
> I find it strange enough that IDL even has hidden functions considering it only has a single namespace.

>  
> Anyway I my question is about the strtok() function. Do you guys have any plain to document this feature? As far as I can tell it has existed in IDL versions for at least 13 years that seems like more than enough time to make sure its stable and after a quick google search it seems like its hardly unknown.

>  
>  
>  
> Or should I be using STRSPLIT? What is the difference between the two?

>  
>  
>  
> Thanks,  
>  
> Tim

After some more googling it turns out they are the same thing. One documented, one undocumented.

```
;+
; NAME:
;   STRSPLIT
;
; PURPOSE:
; Wrapper on the build in system routine STRTOK that implements exactly
; the same interface as STRTOK, but with the STRSPLIT name.
;
;   The reason for doing this is so that if a user has their own
; STRSPLIT in their local user library, their version will superceed
; this one. RSI does not recommend this practice, but it is
; allowed for backwards compatability reasons. ...
```

This seems a bit messy.

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