
Subject: Re: object argument passing behaviour changed in v8.2.2?
Posted by chris_torrence@NOSPAM on Tue, 22 Oct 2013 17:17:00 GMT
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On Tuesday, October 22, 2013 10:59:18 AM UTC-6, Paul van Delst wrote:

> On 10/22/2013 11:57 AM, Chris Torrence wrote:

>

>>

>

>> Hi Paul,

>

>> I don't think this is a special case. It's also not

>

>> "semi-passed-by-reference." The code is simply passing an expression

>

>> into a routine, so IDL cannot store into it.

>

>> Cheers, Chris

>

>

>

> Well, that's not the case. Both your, and my corrected, test cases shows

>

> that you *can* store into the array element reference (well, the object

>

> that was referenced in that array element) in the callee.

>

>

>

> It was the "redefinition" of the object in the routine (or method) that

>

> was screwing things up.

>

>

>

> I know it won't (can't) change anytime soon, but I find the fact that an

>

> array element reference is considered an expression in IDL very

>

> confusing. It just doesn't grok well.

>

>

>

> IDL users should be shielded from under-the-hood details like argument

>

> passing mechanisms, IMO (that's my Fortran90/95/2003 side talking).

>

>

>
> cheers,
>
>
>
> paulv

Yep, I agree that a different decision would have been better. Unfortunately, we would have to travel back 30 years in time to tell David Stern... If I recall, Fortran 77 passed by reference (even for array elements), so David could have gotten it right... Oh well.

-Chris
