
Subject: Re: -32768

Posted by [Karl\[1\]](#) on Thu, 20 Mar 2014 17:01:01 GMT

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On Thursday, March 20, 2014 3:24:59 AM UTC-6, Rob Klooster wrote:

> The reason it does not work, is that you first try to define +32768 and then negate the result. Since +32768 can only be expressed as a long, you end up with a long variable. Using fix is a solution, but you could also use the bitwise not operator, if you feel adventurous:

```
>  
> IDL> a = not 32767  
>  
> IDL> help, a  
>  
> A          INT      = -32768
```

And whether this is a "bug" in IDL or not depends on how IDL defines literal constants.

If an IDL (integral) constant has the form (excuse my abuse of regex):

`[+][0-9]*`

then one could argue this is be a bug.

If a constant can be only:

`[0-9]*`

then, the '-' is taken as an operator and this would not be considered an IDL bug.

C allows:

```
short a = -32768;
```

but warns about:

```
short a = -32769;
```

on a machine where a short is 16 bits.
