
Subject: Re: [ANN] MIDDLE - Almost an Alternative to EXECUTE

Posted by [SonicKenking](#) on Mon, 28 Jul 2014 04:14:28 GMT

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On Thursday, July 24, 2014 5:00:39 PM UTC+10, SonicKenking wrote:

> Mini IDL Evaluator (MIDDLE) evaluates simple IDL statements and most expressions without EXECUTE, i.e. virtual machine safe. It can be an alternative to EXECUTE in many cases.

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> GitHub repo:

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> <https://github.com/ywangd/midle>

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> It is currently at version 0.1.0 and can be also be downloaded at
<https://github.com/ywangd/midle/archive/v0.1.0.zip>

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> MIDDLE implements its own parser and evaluates simple IDL statements and expressions without resorting to the power of `EXECUTE`. It even adds additional language features such as syntax for HASH and LIST literals, higher level array concatenation, bettering support for chaining function/method calls and subscripts.

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> MIDDLE is however not without limitations. Some limitations are due to the limit of IDL language itself, notably output arguments and object property access (object method calls are OK). Others are deliberately set by design to meet the scope of MIDDLE, notably program control constructs. Please refer to the GitHub page for details.

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> MIDDLE requires IDL 8.0 or up (8.3 is recommended).

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> Here are a few examples using MIDDLE (full documentation can be found at the GitHub repo page).

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> ; Mandatory classic example
>
> print, midle("Hello, World!")
>
> midle, 'print, "Hello, World!"
>
>
>
> ; Array of strings
>
> midle, ['print, "STAR"', 'print, "WARS"']
>
> ; Or write them in one line
>
> midle, 'print, "STAR" & print, "WARS"'
>
>
>
> ; Evaluate the content of given file
>
> midle, 'filename', /file
>
> ; Passing variables
>
> env = {num: 50}
>
> print, midle('indgen(2,3,4, start=num)', env)
>
>
>
> ; Procedure call
>
> midle, 'plot, indgen(50, start=100), /ynozero'
>
>
>
> ; Expressions
>
> print, midle('-2.2 - 2 mod ((42. + 22) ^ 2 > 3 - 4.2) * 2.2 / 2.4')
>
> print, midle('x eq 42 ? indgen(5, start=x) : indgen(5)', {x: 42})
>
>
>
> ; Assignment
>
> print, midle('x = 42', env)
>

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> print, env.x ; output 42
>
> print, midle('h = Hash()', env)
>
> print, midle('h["a"] = indgen(3,4,5)', env)
>
> print, midle('h["a", 0, 1, 2] = 420', env)
>
> print, (env.a)[0,1,2] ; output 420
>
> ; List literal
>
> print, midle('("a", "list", "literal")')
>
>
>
> ; Hash literal
>
> print, midle('h{"x": 42, "y": 22, "description": "This is a hash literal"}')
>
>
>
> ; Higher level array concatenation:
>
> env = {a: indgen(6,5,4,3,2), b: indgen(6,5,4,3,2, start=720)}
>
> help, midle(' [ [[[a]]], [[[b]]] ]', env) ; concatenate on the 5th dimension
>
>
>
> ; Better support for chained function/method calls and subscripts
>
> print, midle('list(indgen(3,4,5,6)[*,0:3:2,4,*][2,*,0,0:5:2], /extract).count()')
>
>
>
> -----
>
>
>
> Comments and suggestions are welcome.
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>
> I'd like to thank Mike Galloy for his wonderful mgunit and idldoc, which I used extensively for
developing MIDDLE.
>
>

```

>
> Cheers,
>
> Yang

MIDDLE is now at v0.2.0 and can be downloaded at
<https://github.com/ywangd/midle/archive/v0.2.0.zip>

Version 0.2.0 2014-07-28

New Feature: Subscripts and dot notations can now also be chained for the left-hand-side variable of assignments. This allows direct assignment to an item of a list where the list itself is inside an array.

Improve: Error handling. MIDDLE now always provides helpful information if the error is due to the input string of code. It also always return the error message through the error output keyword.

Bug Fix: Implicit integer and unsigned integer are now auto-promoted to their corresponding LONG and LONG64 types when necessary.

Version 0.1.1 2014-07-25

Improve: Array subscripting optimized.

Improve: Error handling for type conversion during array concatenation

Improve: Documentations

Bug Fix: Assignment can now be done to slice of a list
