
Subject: Re: disable keyword "short forms"

Posted by chris_torrence@NOSPAM on Mon, 01 Dec 2014 19:49:28 GMT

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On Monday, December 1, 2014 5:27:22 AM UTC-7, superchromix wrote:

> hi,

>

> Is there a compiler option that I can use to turn off the "feature" that allows you to specify a keyword using only the first few characters of the keyword name?

>

> This is an AWFUL feature of IDL.. especially when it comes to object programming.

>

> I have an object, MYOBJ, that inherits IDLgrModel, for example. Now, one of the properties of MYOBJ is "Hidetext". This compiles and runs with no errors.. however, this is a serious bug. When you try to set the HIDE property of MYOBJ, it doesn't work, because IDL thinks you are trying to set "Hidetext" instead.

>

> This "short form keywords" feature is, therefore, a surefire way to generate bugs. Fix please?

>

> thanks

> Mark

Hi Mark,

Well, unfortunately, that decision was made about 30 years ago, at the dawn of IDL. It's probably a holdover from the days when "real programmers" just used variables that were a single character. I can't tell you how many places in IDL's C code where I've discovered a variable "i" that actually points to some huge important C structure.

There's no way to disable this behavior, and it isn't going to change - it's too deeply embedded in the interpreter. Annoying, I know.

There are some "tricks" you can do with `_REF_EXTRA` to get keywords to work that start with the same characters, but I wouldn't recommend it because it will just confuse people who are actually expecting the goofy behavior.

Sorry,

Chris
ExelisVIS
