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Subject: Writing programs to use static methods but still compile in IDL 7

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Sun, 30 Aug 2015 16:05:40 GMT

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I am trying to update my code to use the static methods introduced in IDL 8.4 when the user has V8.4 or later. So I write a statement like the following

```
if !VERSION.RELEASE GE '8.4' then return,str.replace(in,out)
```

This works in IDL 8.0 and later but in IDL 7.1.1 and earlier it gives a compilation syntax error.

```
compile_opt idl2
```

```
if !VERSION.RELEASE GE '8.4' then return,str.replace(in,out)
```

```
% Syntax Error. Attempt to subscript array with parenthesis. Please use '[]'.
```

Is there a way to have a program use the static methods when the user has IDL 8.4 or later without causing a compilation syntax error in IDL 7?

An example program is

<http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/pro/misc/repstr.pro>

Thanks, --Wayne

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