

---

Subject: Re: Writing programs to use static methods but still compile in IDL 7  
Posted by [Heinz Stege](#) on Sun, 30 Aug 2015 17:29:13 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Sun, 30 Aug 2015 09:05:40 -0700 (PDT), wlandsman wrote:

> 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

Just an idea: Does

```
if !VERSION.RELEASE GE '8.4' then $  
    return,call_method('replace',a,in,out)  
work? I don't have version 7 installed on my computer.
```

Cheers, Heinz

---