
Subject: Minor obscure error message

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Tue, 01 Sep 2015 19:12:33 GMT

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Suppose one wants to write !p.thick=2 but forgets the equals sign

```
IDL> !p.thick2
```

```
% Tag name THICK2 is undefined for structure !PLT.
```

```
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

and one gets a very logical error message.

But if one precedes this with the syntactically correct statement !p.background=0

```
IDL> !p.background=0 & !p.thick2
```

```
% Object reference type required in this context: <STRUCT  Array[1]>.
```

```
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

one gets an obscure reference about requiring an object type. I'm not sure how IDL is getting confused here. It only happens when the two statements are on the same line.

```
IDL> print,!version
```

```
{ x86_64 linux unix linux 8.4 Sep 27 2014    64    64}
```

--Wayne
