Subject: Re: Minor obscure error message
Posted by Dick Jackson on Tue, 01 Sep 2015 21:50:05 GMT

Hi Wayne,

I think this is why: if there is an "&" indicating multiple statements, then "implied print" is not attempted at all on any of them. In your first example, IDL tried to interpret it as a method call on !p (and failed, with no message), then tried to interpret it as an implied print, and failed. Second time, IDL tried as a method call on !p, and that failed. Due to the "&", it did not try implied print, so it reported the first failure.

Here's a simpler example to show a similar effect:

```
IDL> !Pi
      3.1415927
IDL> !Pi & !DPi
% Attempt to call undefined procedure: '!PI'.
```

Cheers,
-Dick

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On Tuesday, 1 September 2015 12:12:35 UTC-7, wlandsman wrote:
> 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