
Subject: Re: Changing variable type

Posted by [Helder Marchetto](#) on Mon, 16 May 2016 11:31:43 GMT

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On Monday, May 16, 2016 at 11:43:54 AM UTC+1, Mats Löfdahl wrote:

> Is there a way in IDL to change the type of an array, specifically a 16-bit integer into a 16 bit unsigned integer?

>

> No, I do not mean `b = uint(a)`. This makes a new array and keeps the values. I want to change the variable type of the existing array (from 2 to 12), so the bit values are interpreted differently. Is this possible?

>

> /Mats

Hi Mats,

I think you're looking for the `offset` keyword in the `uint` function, but I'm not 100% sure (because this also makes a copy of the variable... there is no `/temporary` keyword)

```
IDL> a = -1
```

```
IDL> help, a
```

```
A          INT      =      -1
```

```
IDL> print, uint(a,0)
```

```
65535
```

Would this do what you want?

Cheers,
Helder
