

Subject: Re: ishft(-32768,-1) = 2147467264 ?

Posted by [George McCabe](#) on Thu, 19 Jun 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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> (Can't remember what the IDL equivalent of info is...)

the IDL equivalent to info is help

> Basically, IDL parses '-' as the unary operator, operating on an

> unsigned constant, not as part of the constant. This problem

- > arises in other languages which lack explicit typing of embedded

> constants.

Is it true that IDL interprets the explicitly typed `fix(-32768)` as a

negative constant and not as an operator and an unsigned constant?

Thanx for the mail.

VVVVVVVV

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[illegible]

Basically, because 32768 is a long integer. When IDL parses the

line of code

$x = -32768$

it sees it as

"x becomes equal to the additive inverse of 32768"

Since 32678 is greater than the biggest possible integer, it is

made a long integer. Compare the following

WAVE> x=-32768

WAVE> info, x

X LONG = -32768

WAVE> x=-32767-1

WAVE> info, x

$$X \quad \text{INT} = -32768$$

(Can't remember what the IDL equivalent of info is...)

Basically, IDL parses '-' as the unary operator, operating on an

unsigned constant, not as part of the constant. This problem

arises in other languages which lack explicit typing of embedded

constants.

Cheers, Stephen

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