
Subject: Re: 'ffff'x is negative in 5.2 positive in 5.2.1
Posted by [davidf](#) on Wed, 27 Oct 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Karri Kaksonen (karri.kaksonen@picker.fi) writes:

> I just upgraded an Alpha Windows NT workstation to run
> version 5.2 of IDL.
>
> The old versions of IDL treated 'ffff'x as a positive number.
> In version 5.2 for the Alpha it is negative and in 5.2.1 for
> Intel it is positive again.
>
> print, 11 gt 'ffff'x
>
> A bit confusing... I wonder what other implications this may
> have on peoples software.

Indeed, this "anomaly" was introduced with the change to unsigned integers in IDL 5.2. It's previous behavior was fixed in IDL 5.2.1. But one could argue that since this is a long integer, it should really be written correctly like this anyway:

```
print, 11 gt 'ffff'xL
```

This works correctly under both versions of IDL. :-)

Cheers,

David

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