
Subject: Re: rstrpos: version 5.2 and version 5.3
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Thu, 24 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) writes:

> And, anyway, I consider the use of FORWARD_FUNCTION to
> be an admission of a program structure that is out of
> control. Nothing against it, you just wouldn't find it
> in any of my programs. :-)

FORWARD_FUNCTION is not the best, but I do find it useful in some special cases, like when there is an IDL version dependency. It's a little bit of insurance that I stick at the top of my program file to give more precise behavior.

But I do see what you are saying here: pre-5.3 IDL STRPOS functions don't take keywords. Then your only alternative is to use call_function as suggested.

Craig

--

Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response

Subject: Re: rstrpos: version 5.2 and version 5.3
Posted by [mallors](#) on Thu, 24 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In article <MPG.131f2aeb52253995989a57@news.frii.com>,
davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) writes:

> J.D. Smith (jdsmith@astro.cornell.edu) writes:
>
>> It's there.
>>
>> You just need to add lib/obsolete under rsi/idl to your IDL search path, or,
>> equivalently, search all sub-paths of lib. I do this as a matter
>> of course, to ensure such things don't happen.
>
> Yes, or alternatively (this is what I decided to do recently),
> include the code in the source that uses it. I did this because
> I *know* people don't have the OBSOLETE directory on their
> path and I get tired of finding 10 e-mails in the morning
> asking why my programs don't work. :-(

But at the top of rstrpos.pro, you will find this wonderful statement:

```
; $Id: rstrpos.pro,v 1.7 1999/01/16 01:25:38 scottm Exp $  
;  
; Copyright (c) 1993-1999, Research Systems, Inc. All rights reserved.  
;   Unauthorized reproduction prohibited.  
;
```

Of course since I reproduced this, I guess I could be in trouble :-)

Regards,

-bob

--

```
~~~~~  
Robert S. Mallozzi                256-544-0887  
                                Mail Code SD 50  
http://gammaray.msfc.nasa.gov/    Marshall Space Flight Center  
http://cspar.uah.edu/~mallozzir/  Huntsville, AL 35812  
~~~~~
```

Subject: Re: rstrpos: version 5.2 and version 5.3
Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 24 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Craig Markwardt (craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu) writes:

```
> FORWARD_FUNCTION STRPOS, RSTRPOS  
>  
>> IF Float(!Version.Release) GT 5.2 THEN BEGIN  
>> dot = StrPos(line, ".", /Reverse_Search)  
>> ENDIF ELSE BEGIN  
>>   dot = RStrPos(line, ".")  
>> ENDELSE  
>>  
>> Although that *seemed* like a good idea at the time,  
>> I found that the line won't compile in versions of  
>> IDL older than IDL 5.3. :-(
```

>

> The above FORWARD_FUNCTION declaration should solve your problems, no?

I don't think so, because the problem is the keyword. But using JD's Call_Function gets around this with the compiler because the program isn't compiled (which is when the number of keywords is "attached" to the program module) until run-time.

And, anyway, I consider the use of FORWARD_FUNCTION to be an admission of a program structure that is out of control. Nothing against it, you just wouldn't find it in any of my programs. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. I don't think I have the energy for another long thread. Let's just write it off as one of my personal quirks. :-)

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: rstrpos: version 5.2 and version 5.3

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Thu, 24 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) writes:

> I resorted to this after first trying something like this:

>

```
FORWARD_FUNCTION STRPOS, RSTRPOS
```

```
> IF Float(!Version.Release) GT 5.2 THEN BEGIN
```

```
> dot = StrPos(line, ".", /Reverse_Search)
```

```
> ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
```

```
>     dot = RStrPos(line, ".")
```

```
> ENDELSE
```

```
>
```

```
> Although that *seemed* like a good idea at the time,
```

```
> I found that the line won't compile in versions of
```

```
> IDL older than IDL 5.3. :-(
```

The above FORWARD_FUNCTION declaration should solve your problems, no?

Craig

--

Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response

Subject: Re: rstrpos: version 5.2 and version 5.3
Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 24 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David Fanning (davidf@dfanning.com) writes:

JD is correct. This syntax compiles in versions of IDL
less than IDL 5.3:

```
IF Float(!Version.Release) LT 5.3 THEN index = RStrPos(theName, sep) ELSE $  
  index = Call_Function('StrPos', theName, sep, /Reverse_Search)
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: rstrpos: version 5.2 and version 5.3
Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 24 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David Fanning (davidf@dfanning.com) writes:

```
> The problem is not that IDL doesn't like the function.  
> The problem is that it doesn't like the new keyword:  
>  
> IDL> dot=call_function("StrPos",'coyote.dat','.',/Reverse_Search)
```

> % Keyword parameters not allowed in call.
> % Execution halted at: \$MAIN\$

Whoops! I think I missed the point. I didn't want it to *execute*, I wanted it to compile. Back to the testing phase...

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: rstrpos: version 5.2 and version 5.3
Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 24 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

J.D. Smith (jdsmith@astro.cornell.edu) writes:

> IDL objects to the mentioning of a function it can't find. Simply use
> call_function and it can't complain (how can it object to a string?).
>
> IF Float(!Version.Release) GT 5.2 THEN \$
> dot=call_function("StrPos",line,".",/Reverse_Search) \$
> ELSE \$
> dot=call_function("RStrPos",line, ".")

The problem is not that IDL doesn't like the function.
The problem is that it doesn't like the new keyword:

```
IDL> dot=call_function("StrPos",'coyote.dat','.',/Reverse_Search)
% Keyword parameters not allowed in call.
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: rstrpos: version 5.2 and version 5.3
Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Thu, 24 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David Fanning wrote:

>
> J.D. Smith (jdsmith@astro.cornell.edu) writes:
>
>> It's there.
>>
>> You just need to add lib/obsolete under rsi/idl to your IDL search path, or,
>> equivalently, search all sub-paths of lib. I do this as a matter of course, to
>> ensure such things don't happen.
>
> Yes, or alternatively (this is what I decided to do recently),
> include the code in the source that uses it. I did this because
> I *know* people don't have the OBSOLETE directory on their
> path and I get tired of finding 10 e-mails in the morning
> asking why my programs don't work. :-(
>
> I resorted to this after first trying something like this:
>
> IF Float(!Version.Release) GT 5.2 THEN BEGIN
> dot = StrPos(line, ".", /Reverse_Search)
> ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
> dot = RStrPos(line, ".")
> ENDELSE
>
> Although that *seemed* like a good idea at the time,
> I found that the line won't compile in versions of
> IDL older than IDL 5.3. :-(
>

IDL objects to the mentioning of a function it can't find. Simply use
call_function and it can't complain (how can it object to a string?).

```
IF Float(!Version.Release) GT 5.2 THEN $  
  dot=call_function("StrPos",line,".",/Reverse_Search) $  
ELSE $  
  dot=call_function("RStrPos",line, ".")
```

JD

--

J.D. Smith |*| WORK: (607) 255-5842
Cornell University Dept. of Astronomy |*| (607) 255-6263
304 Space Sciences Bldg. |*| FAX: (607) 255-5875
Ithaca, NY 14853 |*|

Subject: Re: rstrpos: version 5.2 and version 5.3
Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 24 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

J.D. Smith (jdsmith@astro.cornell.edu) writes:

> It's there.
>
> You just need to add lib/obsolete under rsi/idl to your IDL search path, or,
> equivalently, search all sub-paths of lib. I do this as a matter of course, to
> ensure such things don't happen.

Yes, or alternatively (this is what I decided to do recently),
include the code in the source that uses it. I did this because
I *know* people don't have the OBSOLETE directory on their
path and I get tired of finding 10 e-mails in the morning
asking why my programs don't work. :-(

I resorted to this after first trying something like this:

```
IF Float(!Version.Release) GT 5.2 THEN BEGIN  
dot = StrPos(line, ".", /Reverse_Search)  
ENDIF ELSE BEGIN  
    dot = RStrPos(line, ".")  
ENDELSE
```

Although that *seemed* like a good idea at the time,
I found that the line won't compile in versions of
IDL older than IDL 5.3. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: rstrpos: version 5.2 and version 5.3
Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Thu, 24 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Andy Loughe wrote:

>

> Hello,
>
> In their latest software upgrade, did RSI really
> throw away the RSTRPOS function and replace it with
> STRPOS(/REVERSE_SEARCH) ?
>
> Would they like to fix all the code I have that uses
> RSTRPOS? No... I'll go write my own RSTRPOS.pro, thank you,
> or replace *all* my RSTRPOS with STRPOS(/REVERSE_SEARCH).
>
> This kind of non-backwards compatability gives
> IDL a bad name... I hear the complaint very often
> from ex-IDL programmers.
>

It's there.

You just need to add lib/obsolete under rsi/idl to your IDL search path, or, equivalently, search all sub-paths of lib. I do this as a matter of course, to ensure such things don't happen.

JD

--

J.D. Smith |*| WORK: (607) 255-5842
Cornell University Dept. of Astronomy |*| (607) 255-6263
304 Space Sciences Bldg. |*| FAX: (607) 255-5875
Ithaca, NY 14853 |*|

Subject: Re: rstrpos: version 5.2 and version 5.3
Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Fri, 25 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Andy Loughie wrote:

>
> Hello,
>
> In their latest software upgrade, did RSI really
> throw away the RSTRPOS function and replace it with
> STRPOS(/REVERSE_SEARCH) ?
>
> Would they like to fix all the code I have that uses
> RSTRPOS? No... I'll go write my own RSTRPOS.pro, thank you,
> or replace *all* my RSTRPOS with STRPOS(/REVERSE_SEARCH).
>
> This kind of non-backwards compatability gives
> IDL a bad name... I hear the complaint very often

> from ex-IDL programmers.
>
>

Oh! I do agree!! They should really be more careful in labeling routines as "obsolete". I think it would be fair to keep a routine as rstrpos in the main lib path (or replace it by a wrapper which uses the new functionality) and only change the documentation to tell users there is a better way now so they can slowly migrate to the new form. In my opinion this worked out not too bad with these () -> [] array indices...

Believe it or not: some people ned to rerun code only after several years of IDL development went by!

Cheers,
Martin

> -----
> Andrew F. Loughe email:loughe@fsl.noaa.gov phone:(303)497-6211

--

```

[[ Dr. Martin Schultz Max-Planck-Institut fuer Meteorologie  [[
[[ Bundesstr. 55, 20146 Hamburg [[
[[ phone: +49 40 41173-308 [[
[[ fax: +49 40 41173-298 [[
[[ martin.schultz@dkrz.de [[
[[

```
