

---

Subject: IDL problem under Mandrake Linux  
Posted by [David G. Grier](#) on Mon, 13 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Hi All,

I've just upgraded my Mandrake Linux distribution to version 7.2 and IDL has stopped working in a strange and interesting way:

```
IDL> help, 2.D
<Expression>  DOUBLE    =  2.0000000
IDL> help, 2
<Expression>  INT       =  0
IDL> help, 2L
<Expression>  LONG      =  0
IDL> x = findgen(100)
% Array dimensions must be greater than 0.
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

IDL seems to be having internal trouble with integer data types, setting them all to 0. This is the case with both IDL 5.3 and 5.4. IDL worked fine under Mandrake 7.1, suggesting that this is a library version incompatibility. Has anyone else seen such behavior, and is there a workaround (short of downgrading to 7.1 -- very undesirable)?

Thanks in advance,

David

P.S. Mandrake is supposed to be RedHat compatible -- silence on the newsgroup from RedHat 7 users suggests otherwise.

--

```
=====
David G. Grier      Dept. of Physics, James Franck Institute and
(773) 702-9176 (voice)  Institute for Biophysical Dynamics
(773) 702-5863 (FAX)   The University of Chicago
d-grier@uchicago.edu  5640 S. Ellis Ave
http://griergroup.uchicago.edu/~grier/  Chicago, IL 60637
=====
```

---

Subject: Re: IDL problem under Mandrake Linux

Posted by [Nick Bower](#) on Wed, 22 Nov 2000 16:16:24 GMT

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

---

so what version of glibc does 7.2 use? (7.1 uses 2.1.3 of course).

i'm glad I saw this - I'm a 7.1 user and won't upgrade now.

BTW - did you have font problems using 7.1? I've had to put:

```
widget_control, default_font = $
'-adobe-helvetica-medium-r-*-*-*-*-*-*-*-*'
```

in an IDL startup file and

```
Idl*fontList: -adobe-helvetica-medium-r-*-*-*-*-*-*-*'
```

in .Xdefaults since the generic 13x7 fonts weren't available in the 7.1 font server.

nick

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL problem under Mandrake Linux

Posted by [David G. Grier](#) on Sun, 03 Dec 2000 06:11:36 GMT

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

---

Nick Bower wrote:

> so what version of glibc does 7.2 use? (7.1 uses 2.1.3 of course).

>

> i'm glad I saw this - I'm a 7.1 user and won't upgrade now.

>

Feel free to upgrade. Mandrake 7.2 is compatible with IDL 5.21, 5.3 and 5.4 in

medium security mode, but not in high security mode. High security mode uses libsafe to protect against exploits in such libc routines as gets() and scanf().

Apparently there's an incompatibility which renders IDL incapable of parsing integer constants typed into the command line.

>

> BTW - did you have font problems using 7.1? I've had to put:

>

> widget\_control, default\_font = \$

> '-adobe-helvetica-medium-r-\*-\*-\*-\*-\*-\*-\*'

>

> in an IDL startup file and  
>  
> Idl\*fontList: -adobe-helvetica-medium-r-\*-\*-\*-\*-\*-\*-\*  
>  
> in .Xdefaults since the generic 13x7 fonts weren't available in the 7.1 font  
> server.  
>

Nope, no font problems for me in Mandrake 7.1 or 7.2. But then again, I almost never use IDLDE, being much more comfortable with the excellent idlwave-mode for emacs

--

```
=====
David G. Grier      Dept of Physics, James Franck Institute, and
(773) 702-9176 (voice)  Institute for Biophysical Dynamics
(773) 702-5863 (FAX)   The University of Chicago
d-grier@uchicago.edu 5640 S. Ellis Ave
http://griergroup.uchicago.edu/~grier/ Chicago, IL 60637
=====
```

---