
Subject: Re: subtle but important
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Fri, 27 Apr 2001 15:28:18 GMT
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Randall Skelton <rhskelto@atm.ox.ac.uk> writes:

> On Fri, 27 Apr 2001, Liam E. Gumley wrote:
>
>> This is a subtle but important point. DOUBLE() is a type conversion
>> function [snip]
>
> While we are on the subject of 'subtle but important points' in IDL...
>
> I also learned today that for integers the default length is 16-bit unless
> you use the "COMPILE_OPT DEFINT32" statement. Try "print, 1000*1000" in
> IDL.

That's why I often use "print, 1000L*1000L". Appending "L" to integers saves a lot of grief later on. The COMPILE_OPT approach works in newer versions, but not in IDL 5.2 or older.

Craig

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

Subject: Re: subtle but important
Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Fri, 27 Apr 2001 16:12:05 GMT
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Craig Markwardt wrote:

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> Randall Skelton <rhskelto@atm.ox.ac.uk> writes:
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> Appending "L" to integers saves a lot of grief later on.

This is an understatement

Maybe it's my fortran background, but I always stick an "L" on the end of integers so I know (and others who read the code after me) that this value is a LONG (read: 4 byte) integer, even for silly stuff like

```
n = 3L
FOR i = 0L, n - 1L DO BEGIN
  ....
ENDFOR
```

In this case there's no need but one day someone might make "n" greater than what a 2-byte int can hold.

Don't they teach this sort of stuff (and the floating point representation stuff) in computing/science courses anymore?

paulv

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Paul van Delst A little learning is a dangerous thing;
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring;
Ph: (301)763-8000 x7274 There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
Fax:(301)763-8545 And drinking largely sobers us again.
paul.vandelst@noaa.gov Alexander Pope.
