
Subject: IDL removes dimensions of size 1 automatically

Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Fri, 24 Sep 2004 18:02:58 GMT

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Hi all,

I had a hard time finding a bug which came from IDL's behaviour to remove dimensions of size 1 automatically sometimes.

```
IDL> a=[[1u,1u]]
```

```
IDL> help,a
```

```
A      UINT      = Array[2]
```

```
IDL> ;; IDL doesn't even let me specify this (2,1) element array
```

```
IDL> a=reform(a,2,1)
```

```
IDL> help,a
```

```
A      UINT      = Array[2, 1]
```

```
IDL> b=fix(a)
```

```
IDL> help,b
```

```
B      INT       = Array[2]
```

```
IDL> ;; IDL removed my second dimension even though I just wanted to  
change the type
```

```
IDL> c=2*a
```

```
IDL> help,c
```

```
C      INT       = Array[2]
```

```
IDL> print,c
```

```
    2    2
```

```
IDL> ;; again IDL kicked out my second dimension
```

I found this very annoying. Does anyone know more about it? Why is it like that? In which situations will IDL do that?

Thanks for any comments,

Benjamin
