
Subject: another IDL oddity

Posted by [Bringfried Stecklum](#) on Tue, 17 Feb 2009 15:57:32 GMT

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Folks, here is another one I recently stumbled upon. How about that

```
more ~/IDL/my_procedure.pro
pro my_procedure,arg
print,arg
end
```

```
within IDL
IDL> my_procedure,'Hello.world'
% Compiled module: MY_PROCEDURE.
Hello.world
IDL> exit
```

```
from bash
>echo my_procedure,'Hello.world'|idl
IDL Version 6.4 (linux x86_64 m64). (c) 2007, ITT Visual Information Solutions
Installation number: 12207.
Licensed for use by: TLS Tautenburg
```

```
% Compiled module: LOADCT.
% Compiled module: FILEPATH.
% Compiled module: PATH_SEP.
% Expression must be a structure in this context: HELLO.
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

This is just an example. In the real case, the argument is a file name with a suffix which IDL refuses to treat. The strange thing is that the argument is checked before the compilation of the procedure. The latter happens indeed

```
>echo my_procedure|idl
IDL Version 6.4 (linux x86_64 m64). (c) 2007, ITT Visual Information Solutions
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```

```
% Compiled module: LOADCT.
% Compiled module: FILEPATH.
% Compiled module: PATH_SEP.
% Compiled module: MY_PROCEDURE.
% PRINT: Variable is undefined: ARG.
% Execution halted at: MY_PROCEDURE      2 /home/stecklum/IDL/my_procedure.pro
%           $MAIN$
```

Any hints?

Regards, Bringfried

Subject: Re: another IDL oddity

Posted by jschwab@gmail.com on Tue, 17 Feb 2009 16:15:31 GMT

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> Any hints?

It's just an artifact of the way that quotes are handled.

Compare

```
jschwab: jschwab$ echo my_procedure,'Hello.world'  
my_procedure,Hello.world
```

to

```
jschwab: jschwab$ echo my_procedure,""Hello.world""  
my_procedure,"Hello.world"
```

```
jschwab: jschwab$ echo my_procedure,""Hello.world""  
my_procedure,'Hello.world'
```

```
jschwab: jschwab$ echo "my_procedure,'Hello.world'"  
my_procedure,'Hello.world'
```

Josiah

Subject: Re: another IDL oddity

Posted by [Bringfried Stecklum](#) on Tue, 17 Feb 2009 19:07:21 GMT

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jschwab@gmail.com wrote:

>> Any hints?

>

> It's just an artifact of the way that quotes are handled.

>

> Compare

```
> jschwab: jschwab$ echo my_procedure,'Hello.world'  
> my_procedure,Hello.world
```

>

> to

>

```
> jschwab: jschwab$ echo my_procedure,""Hello.world""  
> my_procedure,"Hello.world"
```

```
>
> jschwab: jschwab$ echo my_procedure, ""Hello.world""
> my_procedure, 'Hello.world'
>
> jschwab: jschwab$ echo "my_procedure, 'Hello.world'"
> my_procedure, 'Hello.world'
>
>
> Josiah
```

Thanks to all of you for solving this issue. I am a little surprised that the call from bash (without the double quote) worked all those years on the old SuSE 8.0 system but does not on Ubuntu 8.1 now. I guess handling quotes is something vital in bash but it seems I overlooked a change of this behavior.

Bringfried

Subject: Re: another IDL oddity
Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Wed, 18 Feb 2009 10:43:25 GMT
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Bringfried Stecklum wrote:

```
> jschwab@gmail.com wrote:
>>> Any hints?
>>
>> It's just an artifact of the way that quotes are handled.
>>
>> Compare
>> jschwab: jschwab$ echo my_procedure, 'Hello.world'
>> my_procedure, Hello.world
>>
>> to
>>
>> jschwab: jschwab$ echo my_procedure, ""Hello.world""
>> my_procedure, "Hello.world"
>>
>> jschwab: jschwab$ echo my_procedure, ""Hello.world""
>> my_procedure, 'Hello.world'
>>
>> jschwab: jschwab$ echo "my_procedure, 'Hello.world'"
>> my_procedure, 'Hello.world'
>>
>>
>> Josiah
>
> Thanks to all of you for solving this issue. I am a little surprised that the
```

> call from bash (without the double quote) worked all those years on the old SuSE 8.0 system but does not on Ubuntu 8.1 now. I guess handling quotes is something vital in bash but it seems I overlooked a change of this behavior.
>

I'd be very surprised if anything in bash had changed between SuSE 8 and Ubuntu. Bash is pretty much enshrined in granite these days. There is a difference, however, between running those commands interactively and putting them in a script. In a script the quotes would not have been stripped - this may account for the difference in behaviour.

--

Nigel Wade
