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**Subject:** Dumb problem with STRPOS  
Posted by [steele](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 1995 07:00:00 GMT  
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Can someone explain the following behaviour to me?

```
IDL> help,/st,!version ; Here's the situation.  
** Structure !VERSION, 3 tags, length=24:  
    ARCH      STRING  'mipseb'  
    OS        STRING  'RISC/os'  
    RELEASE   STRING  '3.1.0'  
IDL> test='c000.' ; define a string  
IDL> help,test ; check it is a string  
TEST      STRING  = 'c000.'  
IDL> print,strpos(test,'000') ; search for a substring  
    1  
IDL> print,strpos(test,'000.') ; and a slightly different one  
    1  
IDL> test='c0000.' ; add a '0'  
IDL> help,test  
TEST      STRING  = 'c0000.'  
IDL> print,strpos(test,'000') ; search again  
    1  
IDL> print,strpos(test,'000.') ; Why isn't this substring found???  
    -1
```

I checked the manual for this version and it says nothing that would explain this. BTW, it's nothing to do with octal constants.

All suggestions gratefully received!

Dave

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In article <3u6g67\$usi@ds2.acs.ucalgary.ca>, I wrote:  
|> Can someone explain the following behaviour to me?  
|> [snip]

```
|> IDL> test='c0000.' ; add a '0'  
|> IDL> help,test  
|> TEST      STRING  = 'c0000.'  
|> IDL> print,strpos(test,'000') ; search again  
|>    1  
|> IDL> print,strpos(test,'000.') ; Why isn't this substring found???  
|>    -1
```

To add further spice:

```
IDL> test='c00000.' ; Add a further '0'  
IDL> print,strpos(test,'000') ; Search again  
    1  
IDL> print,strpos(test,'000.') ; This time it works!  
    3  
IDL> test='c10000.' ; But if I add a '1' instead,  
IDL> print,strpos(test,'000') ; this still works,  
    2  
IDL> print,strpos(test,'000.') ; and this still doesn't!  
    -1
```

Does anyone have a glimmer? Anyone at RSI listening?

Dave

--  
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