Subject: Re: Strange IDL string bug Posted by offenbrg on Wed, 09 Aug 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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Justin Baker <justinb@bom.gov.au> writes:

- > I have discovered an unusual bug with IDL strings (IDL V4.0) and was wondering
- > if anyone else has seen it.
- > I quickly discovered that there seems to be a problem with " quoted strings if
- > they start with a digit.
- > IDL> ok\_string='12345'
- > IDL> bad\_sting="678910" ^
- > % Syntax error.
- > Can anyone shed any light on this problem?

Somewhere along the way, RSI decided to make "xxx (where xxx are digits) stand for "This number is Octal (base 8)" as opposed to "this number is a string."

```
IDL> print, '123
123
IDL> print, "123
83
```

123 in \*octal\* = 83 in \*decimal\*.

One nasty side effect of this, of course, is that "123" is not a string, but an octal number with a stray " mark at the end. Also, "12ab" isn't a string, either, but an octal number with ab" stuck at the end.

This problem pre-dates IDL 4.0, by the way.

Joel

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"...And I am unanimous in this" - Mrs. Slocumbe

Joel D Offenberg | offenbrg@fondue.gsfc.nasa.gov | Hughes STX, NASA/GSFC/LASP | I get paid to stare into space. |

Subject: Re: Strange IDL string bug Posted by Rolf P. W\"urtz on Wed, 09 Aug 1995 07:00:00 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Justin Baker <justinb@bom.gov.au> wrote:

> I quickly discovered that there seems to be a problem with " quoted strings if > they start with a digit.
> The error is due to the fact that "123 means the \_octal\_ value of 123. How somebody could get this idea is beyond me. Even stranger than a leading zero, IMHO. To make it even more interesting, IDL does not check for unbalanced quotes, so the following works:

%print, '123
123
%print, "123
83

Lovely, isn't it?

Rolf

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