
Subject: Undocumented functions in IDL

Posted by [timothyja123](#) on Fri, 01 Mar 2013 03:29:42 GMT

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I have a question for the IDL developers about an undocumented functions in IDL. While I'm fairly new to IDL I'm maintaining IDL code that was written before I even knew the language existed. Up until now I had assumed the function was implemented in our code somewhere (due to the IDE not highlighting it) until I went searching for it today.

I find it strange enough that IDL even has hidden functions considering it only has a single namespace.

Anyway I my question is about the strtok() function. Do you guys have any plan to document this feature? As far as I can tell it has existed in IDL versions for at least 13 years that seems like more than enough time to make sure its stable and after a quick google search it seems like its hardly unknown.

Or should I be using STRSPLIT? What is the difference between the two?

Thanks,
Tim

Subject: Re: Undocumented functions in IDL

Posted by [timothyja123](#) on Fri, 01 Mar 2013 22:39:46 GMT

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On Saturday, March 2, 2013 2:43:40 AM UTC+11, Craig Markwardt wrote:

> On Friday, March 1, 2013 6:09:29 AM UTC-5, timoth...@gmail.com wrote:

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>> I have to disagree entirely. I hear the I dont care about how it works I just want to get the job done over and over from scientists I work with. The problem is they end up writing code that takes them longer to finish then is almost impossible to maintain. I would hardly call that a triumph. When I'm asked to do something they are often amazed at how fast I can accomplish it. My problem is not with IDL itself its that SOME of the people that use it as wasting more time trying to work on maintaining horrible code than investing the small amount of time to learn how to do things properly to begin with.

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> There are often priorities *other* than having one's code run as fast as possible.

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> Thank you for your interest in IDL.

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> CM

When I said "longer to finish" I meant it takes longer to write the code, not longer to run the code (although that is often a side affect). Your point is what I'm taking about if you take some time, lets call it an investment then you will be able to use your tools better and faster and get on with those other priorities rather than wasting time coding. Anyway I'm going to leave it at that I'm not trying to offend people this is just a frustrating observation I've made. I don't know of any other job where someone says I dont care about using my tools properly as long as I get the job done.

Subject: Re: Undocumented functions in IDL
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 01 Mar 2013 22:44:13 GMT
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timothyja123@gmail.com writes:

> I don't know of any other job where someone says I dont care about using my tools properly as long as I get the job done.

You should live in my house. The guy I bought it from thought he was a "handyman". Every time a professional workman comes out here to fix something I find them standing over the thing, scratching their heads, going "Huh!?"

Sigh...

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
