
Subject: Meaning of the expression

Posted by [Suresh Negi](#) on Tue, 20 Sep 2016 06:05:17 GMT

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```
exp = 'BYTE(B1 NE 0)*1'
```

What is the meaning of this expression???

Subject: Re: Meaning of the expression

Posted by [Helder Marchetto](#) on Tue, 20 Sep 2016 08:05:59 GMT

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On Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 8:05:22 AM UTC+2, Sanu wrote:

```
> exp = 'BYTE(B1 NE 0)*1'
```

```
>
```

```
> What is the meaning of this expression???
```

It's not an expression, it's an assignment.

It assigns a string to the variable exp.

However, the math displayed in the string is somewhat strange:

- b1 NE 0 will always give a byte result, so there is no need for the byte function
- the *1 will convert the result to an integer or long (depending on the compiler options)

Helder

Subject: Re: Meaning of the expression

Posted by [Markus Schmassmann](#) on Tue, 20 Sep 2016 09:39:38 GMT

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On 09/20/2016 10:05 AM, Helder wrote:

```
> On Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 8:05:22 AM UTC+2, Sanu wrote:
```

```
>> exp = 'BYTE(B1 NE 0)*1'
```

```
>>
```

```
>> What is the meaning of this expression???
```

```
> It's not an expression, it's an assignment.
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```
> It assigns a string to the variable exp.
```

```
> However, the math displayed in the string is somewhat strange:
```

```
> - b1 NE 0 will always give a byte result, so there is no need for the byte function
```

```
> - the *1 will convert the result to an integer or long (depending on the compiler options)
```

```
- B1 NE 0 is of type BYTE with the Boolean flag set, the BYTE() function  
removes that flag
```

```
- the only difference the Boolean flag makes, is to HELP,  
ISA(XXX,/boolean) and implied print
```

```
- once *1 is applied, this does not matter
```

if compile_opt idl2 or defint32 is set, the math in the string could be shortened to 'LONG(B1 NE 0)', otherwise 'FIX(B1 NE 0)'

Subject: Re: Meaning of the expression

Posted by [Helder Marchetto](#) on Tue, 20 Sep 2016 09:54:45 GMT

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On Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 11:39:39 AM UTC+2, Markus Schmassmann wrote:

> On 09/20/2016 10:05 AM, Helder wrote:

>> On Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 8:05:22 AM UTC+2, Sanu wrote:

>>> exp = 'BYTE(B1 NE 0)*1'

>>>

>>> What is the meaning of this expression???

>> It's not an expression, it's an assignment.

>> It assigns a string to the variable exp.

>> However, the math displayed in the string is somewhat strange:

>> - b1 NE 0 will always give a byte result, so there is no need for the byte function

>> - the *1 will convert the result to an integer or long (depending on the compiler options)

> - B1 NE 0 is of type BYTE with the Boolean flag set, the BYTE() function

> removes that flag

> - the only difference the Boolean flag makes, is to HELP,

> ISA(XXX,/boolean) and implied print

> - once *1 is applied, this does not matter

>

> if compile_opt idl2 or defint32 is set, the math in the string could be

> shortened to 'LONG(B1 NE 0)', otherwise 'FIX(B1 NE 0)'

Hi Markus,

what version of IDL do you use?

I get very different results:

IDL> help, 0 NE 0

<Expression> BYTE = 0

IDL> help, isa(0b NE 0b, /boolean)

<Expression> BYTE = 0

IDL> !version

```
{
  "ARCH": "x86_64",
  "OS": "Win32",
  "OS_FAMILY": "Windows",
  "OS_NAME": "Microsoft Windows",
  "RELEASE": "8.5.1",
  "BUILD_DATE": "Nov 14 2015",
  "MEMORY_BITS": 64,
  "FILE_OFFSET_BITS": 64
}
```

The only way I can create a boolean is with the boolean function.

```
IDL> help, isa(boolean(0b NE 0b), /boolean)
<Expression>  BYTE    =  1
Even this does not return a boolean:
IDL> help, isa(boolean(0b) NE boolean(0b), /boolean)
<Expression>  BYTE    =  0
```

Cheers,
Helder

Subject: Re: Meaning of the expression
Posted by [Markus Schmassmann](#) on Tue, 20 Sep 2016 13:55:46 GMT
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```
On 09/20/2016 11:54 AM, Helder wrote:
> On Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 11:39:39 AM UTC+2, Markus Schmassmann wrote:
>> On 09/20/2016 10:05 AM, Helder wrote:
>>> On Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 8:05:22 AM UTC+2, Sanu wrote:
>>>> exp = 'BYTE(B1 NE 0)*1'
>>>>
>>>> What is the meaning of this expression???
>>> It's not an expression, it's an assignment.
>>> It assigns a string to the variable exp.
>>> However, the math displayed in the string is somewhat strange:
>>> - b1 NE 0 will always give a byte result, so there is no need for the byte function
>>> - the *1 will convert the result to an integer or long (depending on the compiler options)
>> - B1 NE 0 is of type BYTE with the Boolean flag set, the BYTE() function
>> removes that flag
>> - the only difference the Boolean flag makes, is to HELP,
>> ISA(XXX,/boolean) and implied print
>> - once *1 is applied, this does not matter
>>
>> if compile_opt idl2 or defint32 is set, the math in the string could be
>> shortened to 'LONG(B1 NE 0)', otherwise 'FIX(B1 NE 0)'
> what version of IDL do you use?
> I get very different results:
> IDL> help, 0 NE 0
> <Expression>  BYTE    =  0
> IDL> help, isa(0b NE 0b, /boolean)
> <Expression>  BYTE    =  0
> IDL> !version
> {
>   "ARCH": "x86_64",
>   "OS": "Win32",
>   "OS_FAMILY": "Windows",
>   "OS_NAME": "Microsoft Windows",
>   "RELEASE": "8.5.1",
>   "BUILD_DATE": "Nov 14 2015",
```

```
> "MEMORY_BITS": 64,  
> "FILE_OFFSET_BITS": 64  
> }  
>  
> The only way I can create a boolean is with the boolean function.  
> IDL> help, isa(boolean(0b NE 0b), /boolean)  
> <Expression>  BYTE    =  1  
> Even this does not return a boolean:  
> IDL> help, isa(boolean(0b) NE boolean(0b), /boolean)  
> <Expression>  BYTE    =  0  
Hi Helder,
```

your right, IDL logical operators give back BYTE and not BOOLEAN, which doesn't seem very sensible to me. My answer reflects what I thought should be instead of what is. Sorry for the confusion.

Cheers, Markus

PS: IDL> isa(!true,/boolean)
1

Subject: Re: Meaning of the expression
Posted by [Suresh Negi](#) on Wed, 21 Sep 2016 06:10:01 GMT
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On Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 11:35:22 AM UTC+5:30, Sanu wrote:

```
> exp = 'BYTE(B1 NE 0)*1'  
>  
> What is the meaning of this expression???
```

What is meaning of *1