Subject: a BUG or not a BUG in IDL ?
Posted by Luis E. Liziola on Thu, 18 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT
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I have a "warning in loops" for you guys...
Check this "stupid" routine:

```
;--------------------------------------
print,'Integers'
J = 0
for I = 1,10 do begin
   print,I
   I = I + J
endfor

print,'Float'
J = 0.0
for I = 1,10 do begin
   print,I
   I = I + J      ; Here I am changing the Type of "I"
endfor

print,'Long'
J = 0L
for I = 1,10 do begin
   print,I
   I = I + J      ; Here I am also changing the type of "I"
   ;if i gt 20 then stop
endfor
end
;--------------------------------
```

The first loop if OK, the second loop stops after the first
iteration, but the last loop, just keeps going forever...

Any comments ?
At least should be a "WARNING" in the manual...

Luis
University of Colorado

Subject: Re: a BUG or not a BUG in IDL ?
Posted by steinhh on Fri, 26 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <4so62p$42j@reznor.larc.nasa.gov>, g.d.nowicki@larc.nasa.gov (Gregory D. Nowicki)
writes:

|>
|> HOLD IT!!!
|>
|> You all seem to be missing the point. There is no language I know of that
|> recommends you modify a control variable within a FOR/DO loop. Results are
|> unpredictable. If fact, there are a fair number of compilers out there
|> that will produce an error if you mess with the control variable, not just a
|> warning.
|>
|> As with any language, there are ways to shoot yourself in the foot. IDL
|> just allows you to do it differently.
|>

As for comments to the original article, I definitely agree with the above.
If you want to mess with a FOR loop variable, make the whole thing into
a WHILE loop (or use GOTOs, I don't care as long as I don't have to maintain
the software). They might have mentioned it in the manual, but who would
read it before finding the problem first?

Stein Vidar Haugan