

---

Subject: Hey! Pssst! Wanna see something wierd?  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 31 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Alright you IDL gurus. Explain this!

```
number = STRING(10)
FOR j=0, number DO PRINT, 'Cool...!'
```

Weird, huh. IDL reads my mind! :-)

David

-----  
David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting  
2642 Bradbury Court, Fort Collins, CO 80521  
Phone: 970-221-0438 Fax: 970-221-4762  
E-Mail: [davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com)  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com>  
-----

---

Subject: Re: Hey! Pssst! Wanna see something wierd?  
Posted by [Andy Loughe](#) on Mon, 03 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

David Fanning wrote:

```
>
> Alright you IDL gurus. Explain this!
>
> number = STRING(10)
> FOR j=0, number DO PRINT, 'Cool...!'
>
> Weird, huh. IDL reads my mind! :-)
>
```

Seems easy to explain, the string value is simply converted to integer type because 0 is of that type, to prove this, try these three options...

```
FOR j=0, number DO Help, j
```

```
FOR j=0L, number DO Help, j
```

```
FOR j=0., number DO Help, j
```

--  
Andrew F. Loughe |  
afl@cdc.noaa.gov  
University of Colorado, CIRES Box 449 |  
http://cdc.noaa.gov/~afl  
Boulder, CO 80309-0449 | phn:(303)492-0707  
fax:(303)497-7013

-----  
"I do not feel obliged to believe that the same God who has endowed us  
with  
sense, reason, and intellect has intended us to forego their use."  
-Galileo

---

Subject: Re: Hey! Pssst! Wanna see something wierd?  
Posted by [pit](#) on Mon, 03 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

In article <davidf-ya023080003101971818290001@news.frii.com>,  
davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) writes:

```
> Alright you IDL gurus. Explain this!  
>  
> number = STRING(10)  
> FOR j=0, number DO PRINT, 'Cool...!'  
>  
> Weird, huh. IDL reads my mind! :-)
```

Sorry, I don't get the point. What's so strange about IDL  
recognizing the string '10' as a number? It's doing it since long.  
It is even "smart" enough to do:

```
IDL> print,fix('10asd')  
10
```

Even cooler, eh?

Peter

--  
~~~~~

Peter "Pit" Suetterlin <http://www.uni-sw.gwdg.de/~pit>  
Universitaets-Sternwarte Goettingen  
Tel.: +49 551 39-5048 [pit@uni-sw.gwdg.de](mailto:pit@uni-sw.gwdg.de)

-- \* -- \* ...-- \* -- \* ...-- \* -- \* ...-- \* -- \* ...-- \* --  
Come and see the stars! <http://www.kis.uni-freiburg.de/~ps/SFB>

---

Subject: Re: Hey! Pssst! Wanna see something wierd?

Posted by [Joseph M Zawodny](#) on Mon, 03 Feb 1997 08:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

David Fanning wrote:

>  
> Alright you IDL gurus. Explain this!  
>  
> number = STRING(10)  
> FOR j=0, number DO PRINT, 'Cool...!'  
>  
> Weird, huh. IDL reads my mind! :-)  
>  
> David

Well since the loop variable of a FOR loop has the type of the first parameter (namely whatever follows the equal sign) and all other parameters (end-value and step-value) converted to the same type, I am not surprised too much. The conversion of properly formatted string variables to byte, integer, float, ... is well known (look at READS function). I know this since I have had the misfortune of expecting the following to work.

```
for k=0,123456789L do ...
```

```
for k=0,5,0.1 do ...
```

Neither of them worked as I expected until rewritten as

```
for k=0L,123456789 do ...
```

```
for k=0.,5,0.1 do ...
```

Have fun!

--

Work: Dr. Joseph M. Zawodny    Play: Joe Zawodny  
      NASA Langley Research Center    KO4LW@amsat.org  
      E-mail: J.M.Zawodny@LaRC.NASA.gov    zawodny@exis.net  
      (757) 864-2681    (757) 864-2671 FAX    http://wwwp.exis.net/~zawodny

---