
Subject: probable mistake in IDL manual
Posted by [szoonem](#) on Fri, 28 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hi,

I was reading "Building IDL Applications" manual (version 5) and noticed the procedure on p. 76 which is supposed to count the number of times that the word "dog" appears in the string "dog cat duck rabbit dog cat dog";

```
-----  
pro Animals  
animals = 'dog cat duck rabbit dog cat dog'  
i = 0  
cnt = 0  
while (i ne -1) do begin  
    i = strpos(animals,'dog', i)  
    if (i ne -1) then cnt = cnt + 1  
endwhile  
print, 'Found ',cnt, "occurrences of 'dog'"  
end  
-----
```

When I read it, it struck me as being wrong. I tested it later and it seems to have gone into an infinite loop (as I suspected it would). Is it some thing VERY obvious that I am missing or is it simply wrong?

I am rather confused about this simple procedure. Any comments would be appreciated,

- Saeid

```
-----  
| Saeid Zoonematkermani      | E-Mail: szoonem@astro.sunysb.edu |  
| Dept. of Physics & Astronomy | Voice: (+1) (516) 632-8237   |  
| State University of New York | Fax:   (+1) (516) 632-8742   |  
| Stony Brook, NY 11794-3800  |                               |  
-----
```

```
|      Home Page --> http://ozone.ess.sunysb.edu/      |  
-----
```

Subject: Re: probable mistake in IDL manual
Posted by [David Foster](#) on Tue, 02 Dec 1997 08:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Saeid Zoonematkermani wrote:
>

```

> -----
> pro Animals
> animals = 'dog cat duck rabbit dog cat dog'
> i = 0
> cnt = 0
> while (i ne -1) do begin
>   i = strpos(animals,'dog', i)
>   if (i ne -1) then cnt = cnt + 1
> endwhile
> print, 'Found ',cnt, "occurrences of 'dog'"
> end
> -----
>
> When I read it, it struck me as being wrong. I tested it later and it
> seems to have gone into an infinite loop (as I suspected it would). Is it
> some thing VERY obvious that I am missing or is it simply wrong?
>
> I am rather confused about this simple procedure. Any comments would be
> appreciated,

```

Yep, looks like an infinite loop to me. Needs the following line at the end of the while loop:

```
i = i + strlen('dog') ; maybe i = i + 3 is faster ;-)
```

Dave

--

```

~~~~~
David S. Foster      Univ. of California, San Diego
Programmer/Analyst  Brain Image Analysis Laboratory
foster@bials1.ucsd.edu  Department of Psychiatry
(619) 622-5892      8950 Via La Jolla Drive, Suite 2240
                    La Jolla, CA 92037
~~~~~

```