
Subject: Re: isn't this a bug in RSTRPOS?

Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 05 Jan 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Russ Welti (rwelti@mapper.mbt.washington.edu) writes:

```
> IDL> s=["hi","hit","hitter","h"]
> IDL> print,strpos(s,"t")
>   -1   2   2  -1
> IDL> print,rstrpos(s,"t")
> % Compiled module: RSTRPOS.
> % Compiled module: REVERSE.
> % Expression must be a scalar in this context: <BYTE   Array(4)>.
>
> What gives?
```

Whoops! My friend, Josh Goldstein, wrote this code a long time ago. Josh was (probably is, although I haven't seen him in a long time) one of the best IDL programmers I have ever seen. He could write IDL code (and always GREAT code) as fast as I could talk. He wasn't big on testing things, as I remember. Figuring--I think correctly--that if he wrote it, it must be right. I was, frankly, in awe of his coding prowess.

But I think he made a mistake here. This code is barfing on an IF statement. The test condition in an IF statement must always evaluate to a scalar. This test case cannot do that. I guess it could be fixed with a FOR loop, but I can just hear what Josh would have to say about **that**, so I'm not touching it. :-)

The RSTRPOS source code is in the library.

Cheers,

David

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