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Subject: Re: A bug in Mac OS version?

Posted by [Richard G. French](#) on Tue, 15 Dec 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Saeid Zoonematkermani wrote:

```
>
> Hello,
>
> This is a rather curious bug that I noticed after I upgraded to 5.2. Of
> course this may not be a bug but if I am being really stupid, please let
> me know.
>
> IDL> print, !version
> { PowerMac MacOS MacOS 5.2 Oct 30 1998}
> IDL> print, '0000FF'x
>    255
> IDL> print, '00FF00'x
>   -256
> IDL> print, 'FF0000'x
>  16711680
>
> Shouldn't '00FF00'x be equivalent to 65280? Is this behavior also repeated
> on other platforms?
>
>
on my 5.1 version, i do indeed get 65280:
```

```
IDL> print, '00FF00'x
    65280
IDL> print,!version
{ alpha OSF unix 5.1 Apr 13 1998}
```

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Subject: Re: A bug in Mac OS version?

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 15 Dec 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Olof Hellman ([hellman@ksan.ms.nwu.edu](mailto:hellman@ksan.ms.nwu.edu)) writes:

```
> I would agree with you that
>
> IDL> print, '00FF00'x
>   -256
>
> might be reasonable, but then I'd expect
>
> IDL> print, 'FF0000'x
>    0
```

>  
> If the behaviour shown above isn't wrong, then IDL is a very perverse language.

Perverse!? IDL? \*Our\* IDL? The one we use the make filled contour plots?  
Nah... :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

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Subject: Re: A bug in Mac OS version?  
Posted by [hellman](#) on Tue, 15 Dec 1998 08:00:00 GMT  
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In article <MPG.10e0810a9c715cf9896ad@news.frii.com>, davidf@dfanning.com  
(David Fanning) wrote:

> Saeid Zoonematkermani (Saeid.Zoonematkermani@sunysb.edu) writes:  
>

```
>> IDL> print, !version  
>> { PowerMac MacOS MacOS 5.2 Oct 30 1998}  
>> IDL> print, '0000FF'x  
>>    255  
>> IDL> print, '00FF00'x  
>>   -256  
>> IDL> print, 'FF0000'x  
>>  16711680
```

>  
> In fact, this value you are trying to create here is really  
> a LONG integer. You, of course, are creating it as a SHORT  
> integer. Now, I'll give you that IDL didn't used to behave  
> so boarishly, but what it is doing (i.e. wrapping), IMHO,  
> is entirely within its rights.

I would agree with you that

```
IDL> print, '00FF00'x  
-256
```

might be reasonable, but then I'd expect

```
IDL> print, 'FF0000'x
0
```

If the behaviour shown above isn't wrong, then IDL is a very perverse language.

- Olof

---

Subject: Re: A bug in Mac OS version?  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 15 Dec 1998 08:00:00 GMT  
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Saeid Zoonematkermani (Saeid.Zoonematkermani@sunysb.edu) writes:

```
> This is a rather curious bug that I noticed after I upgraded to 5.2. Of
> course this may not be a bug but if I am being really stupid, please let
> me know.
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> IDL> print, !version
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>   -256
> IDL> print, 'FF0000'x
>  16711680
>
> Shouldn't '00FF00'x be equivalent to 65280? Is this behavior also repeated
> on other platforms?
```

Yes, I noticed this the other day too on my Windows NT machine.  
I was well into a nasty note to RSI technical support when I  
thought to do just a bit more testing.

In fact, this value you are trying to create here is really  
a LONG integer. You, of course, are creating it as a SHORT  
integer. Now, I'll give you that IDL didn't used to behave  
so boarishly, but what it is doing (i.e. wrapping), IMHO,  
is entirely within its rights. I'm guessing that something  
changed internally with the new unsigned integer stuff.

In any case, you get what you expect if you make these  
values LONG integers:

```
IDL> Print, '00FF00'xL
    65280
IDL> Print, 'FF0000'xL
  16711680
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

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[Note: This follow-up was e-mailed to the cited author.]

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