Problem

Why can't I use '_' or a number as an identifier in IDL?

Solution

According to IDL specifications (I have used here CORBA V.2.2 specs), an identifier (for example the name of a method or of an attribute) cannot start with a number or underscore or non-alphabetic characters:

Section 3.23 Identifiers

An tidentifier is an arbitrary long sequence of alphabetic,digit, and underscore ("_") characters. The **first character must be an alphabetic character**.

According to this definition, both **_5v** and **5v** are illegal identifiers.

I have verified that:

- TAO refuses '5v'
- JacORB refuses '_5v'

but they are both illegal from the specs' point of view.

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