
Subject: Re: Preserving Variables

Posted by [thompson](#) on Thu, 30 Oct 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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Matthew Hanson <matt@ktaadn.com> writes:

> Hello,
> Anyone know how to make statis variables? That is, upon returning to a
> function, how can i create a variable that has the same value as when i
> left the function before? I really don't want to use Common Blocks.
> -matt

I understand your concern about common blocks, but if a common block is restricted to a single routine for the sole purpose of retaining information between calls, then I think most of those concerns disappear. I make such a "private" common block have the same name as the routine, to avoid running into a common block of the same name from another routine.

The other way to preserve data, of course, is to use DEFSYSV to define a global system variable, but that can be rather awkward.

It would be nice if IDL had a RETAIN statement, similar to the COMMON statement, that could be used to retain internal variables between calls.

Bill Thompson
