Subject: Re: System Variables: defining and using
Posted by mallors on Sun, 03 May 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <6ihdnf$rc8$1@ratatosk.uio.no>,
 steinhh@ulrik.uio.no (Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan) writes:
>
>> Apparently IDL
>> requires the system variable to be defined at compile time.
>
> Yes, that's right. Which means they should preferably be defined
> in the IDL_STARTUP file. There is one way of getting around this,
> though. In your case, write
>
>   dummy = execute("endian = !little_endian")
>   return,endian
>
> instead of simply return,!little_endian. This will allow your
> routine to compile, and define the system variable before it's
> used.
>

From the file 51new.txt that was distributed with 5.1b3:

> "Note also that system variables can now be defined
> after code that references them is compiled (or even
> in the same routine) and IDL will correctly resolve the
> reference as long as the variable exists at the time the
> referencing code executes."

I tried the is_little_endian() function, and it works fine
with 5.1b3. I think 5.1 is due to be released any day now.

Regards,

-bob mallozzi

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