
Subject: Re: static variable mayhem

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Wed, 13 May 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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Theo Brauers wrote:

```
>
> Hi:
>
> you may try the following:
>
> FUNCTION foo, x
> COMMON foo, called
> ; look if called is defined, what ever value it has!
> IF n_elements(called) EQ 0 THEN BEGIN
> ; define called
>   called=1
>   RETURN, x-1
> ENDIF
> RETURN, x+1
> END
>
> I hope it solves your problem.
> Theo
>
```

... but be careful when you want to assign variables of different length to the common block (i.e. arrays or structures). Then you'll have to use pointers, i.e.

```
commons,pinfo
```

```
if (n_elements(pinfo) eq 0) then pinfo=ptr_new()
```

```
if (ptr_valid(pinfo)) then *pinfo=data
```

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