
Subject: Re: Creating Variables in Programs/ New: is this for objects?

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Tue, 14 Jul 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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R. Bauer wrote:

>
> Martin Schultz wrote:
>
> [...]
>>
>> But I don't really see the point of the original question: why the h...
>> do you want to do this? To my knowledge, creating variables only makes
>> sense if you know what to do with them afterwards - and in order to do
>> something with them, you must know their name beforehand.
>> [...]

> Hi Martin,
>
> that's not totally correct.
> idl knows a lot of your variables which are defined or defined as undefined
> (a=n_elements(b))
>
> print,routine_names(/variables)

Guess you mean routine_info, but that's a minor detail. Yes, thanks for this hint! After thinking about this a little more, I must confess that there may well be applications that could use dynamically created variables without having to know too much about them. E.g. from your example: if you write a few general tools to convert data sets from ASCII to binary format etc., you don't need to know what the variables are, only their size and type. Or a temperature conversion routine would not care whether it knows the name of the experimenter, it suffices if it finds a param_unit entry with something it can handle.

Again, to my knowledge, this is the kind of thing that objects are all about, but I never got around to try the IDL objects, nor did I ever succeed in creating a real OOP application. It must be either my mind that is just not wired for objects, or there *is* too much overhead for a non-professional programmer to make much use of them. Maybe some of the object guru's in this newsgroup would like to comment?

Reimar, if you don't mind sharing your code, I would indeed like to take a look at it, because I might need something like this in the near future (but we could discuss this in Juelich if you are around on the 24th of July).

Hope to see you soon,
Martin.

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