
Subject: Re: Type define

Posted by [mallors](#) on Fri, 26 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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In article <7defbt\$bfh\$1@nnrp1.dejanews.com>, philaldis@geocities.com writes:

- > In article <7dd6id\$a4m@hermes.fundp.ac.be>,
- > "Tri VU KHAC" <tvk@info.fundp.ac.be> wrote:
- >> Hi,
- >>
- >> In C, we can define sth like
- >> #typedef A
- >> And in IDL, is this possible ?
- >>
- >> Thanks,
- >>
- >> Best regards,
- >> Tri.
- >>
- >>
- > [text cut]
- >
- > because most of the time your variables are defined by
- > what is passed into
- > them. You can even call a function like this:
- >
- > CurrentlyUndefinedVariable = N_Elements([1,2,3])
- >
- >and even though CurrentlyUndefinedVariable had never
- > been mentioned anyway
- > before in your code, it is now a integer. This is one of
- > the great features of
- > IDL because it you gives you such flexibilitiy.

Not to be too picky, but N_Elements () will return CurrentlyUndefinedVariable as a LONG, not an INT. For someone new to IDL this might cause confusion.

Although most of the time this flexibility is nice, it can bite you if you are not careful. If it does, it can produce a bug that can be *very* difficult to find ... I know from experience ;-)

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