Subject: Re: Global variables and IDL
Posted by luthi on Wed, 14 Apr 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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> Use a common block. That requires adding only one extra statement to each
> routine that uses an element of the common, and requires no other code
> changes.

I just did this recently when writing code with some 30 subroutines calling each other and being called by procedures for optimization (IMSL-routines of PV-Wave). I found no other way to share huge arrays of data between all routines than by using COMMON blocks and thus created some 20 of them. Of course not every block is shared between all routines, but in this way I can select the ones I need.

Further I was concerned with the speed issue and thought, that COMMON blocks would be a good idea instead of actually passing variables (huge arrays) as paramters to routines which are called some 100000 times, which would result in a large overhead of memory assignment and data type checking. (Okay, probably I should have used C or Fortran, but Wave is that convenient...)

Does anybody have an idea wheter COMMON blocks could help speed up a program? And has anybody an idea wheter COMMON blocks are evil?

> In the past 7-8 years I've found more use for GOTOs than
> I have for common blocks, and I NEVER use a GOTO if I
> can avoid it. :-)

For me it's inverse: I absolutely NEVER use a GOTO (actually I forgot how to use it... the old Basic times are so far! ;-) but I make plenty use of COMMON blocks.

Cheers

Martin
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