
Subject: Re: Common trouble

Posted by [davidf](#) on Wed, 18 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Kristian Kjaer (kristian.kjaer@risoe.dk) writes:

I should really leave this question to the common block experts... :-)

> Q1: How do you delete a common block (other than by exiting IDL)?

You can't. Once declared, it's there forever. I hear this may be changing in IDL 5.3.

> Q3: Should commons be avoided altogether in IDL ?

I'll defer. Let's just say they are WAY overused in widget programs, in my humble opinion. But there is no question they are useful in certain--I think limited--situations.

> Q2: Why does this not work (got the same with IDL 5.1 on linux):

One of the rules of common block usage is that common block variables cannot be arguments of procedures:

IDL> ? common blocks

From the error messages you are getting, I suspect the parameters are somehow marked as a special "type" when they come into the procedure that is different from the type you expect them to be when you load them into common. But this is pure speculation.

Cheers,

David

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