## Subject: Re: Accessing "main" level variables Posted by Michael Lefsky on Wed, 19 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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<!doctype html public "-//w3c//dtd html 4.0 transitional//en">
<html>
Craig Markwardt wrote:
>Incidentally, there is an internal IDL routine which *can* do this.
<br>>Unfortunately you need to write a DLM to access it.
| haven't worked with the internal IDL routines, and don't
plan to. But I did look at the EDG documentation,
<br/>sand it seems like it would be relatively straighforward to write a
toolbox  that would allow us (the IDL user community) to
access main level variables from within procedures. For instance, an IDL
shell could
<br>be written to access the routine
             
          
   
IDL VPTR IDL GetVarAddr(char *name)
which would return the address of the variable, and then the variable
could be obtained and returned as the return value of the function.
Has anyone written such a toolbox?
<br/><br>%nbsp;
Craig Markwardt wrote:
<blockquote TYPE=CITE>Michael Lefsky &lt;lefsky@home.com> writes:
2) Is it possible to access main level variables from within a procedure?
<br/>
<br/>
<br/>
For instance, to solve the problem outlined in 1), you could simply
<br>> write a procedure called "save" which would have precedence over
the
<br/>system command save. However, once in the procedure "save", you would
no
<br>> longer have access to the main level variables that you want to save.
<br>> Even if you specified them as arguments to "save" you would no longer
<br/> have access to their original (ie. main level) names. There are numerous
<br>> applications for which I would like to be able to somehow get either
<br>> the names of the variables passed to the current procedure (ie. the
<br>> names they had at the level above them) or to access the main level
<br/> <br/> variables. Of course there might be numerous ways to do either of
these
<br>> things, from the ugly to the sublime- personally, I am not particular.
I like your questino.  I know I will get flamed for saying it,
but I
<br>>think there are some times when it is desireable for a program to
<br>>deposit its results into the main level.&nbsp; For example, a fully
canned
<br/>curve fitting program may want to return the fitting results.&nbsp;
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This
<br>should of course be done with full control and permission of the user.
"Why," you ask, "don't you just return it as a regular or keyword
<br>parameter?"
"Simple," I say.  "You don't always know how many variables you
are
<br/><br/>doing to return."&nbsp; Also, if it were a curve fitting program "for
<br>>dummies" then I would want to make it as simple as possible.
Incidentally, there is an internal IDL routine which *can* do this.
<br>Unfortunately you need to write a DLM to access it.
Craig
>---
<br/><br/>craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D.&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;&nbsp;<br/>&nbsp;&nbsp;
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