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Subject: Re: Accessing "main" level variables  
Posted by [mallors](#) on Tue, 18 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT  
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In article <3883C97E.8DA692CE@home.com>,

Michael Lefsky <lefsky@home.com> writes:

- > I have two questions, one short and direct, one longer and more diffuse.
- >
- > 1) Has anyone found a way to keep IDL from either overwriting existing
- > idlsave.dat files or not allowing a user to access the save function
- > without specifying a filename? If I had a dollar for every time I had
- > to ask my system administrator to restore an old "idlsave.dat" file
- > because I had accidentally overwritten it, I'd have maybe 4 or 5 bucks.
- > Admittedly that's not much, but it is enough to buy my SA a slice of
- > pizza, which would go a long way to apologizing for all those
- > restores:).
- >
- > 2) Is it possible to access main level variables from within a procedure?
- > For instance, to solve the problem outlined in 1), you could simply
- > write a procedure called "save" which would have precedence over the
- > system command save. However, once in the procedure "save", you would no
- > longer have access to the main level variables that you want to save.
- > Even if you specified them as arguments to "save" you would no longer
- > have access to their original (ie. main level) names. There are numerous
- > applications for which I would like to be able to somehow get either )
- > the names of the variables passed to the current procedure (ie. the
- > names they had at the level above them) or to access the main level
- > variables. Of course there might be numerous ways to do either of these
- > things, from the ugly to the sublime- personally, I am not particular.
- >
- > Does anyone have any thoughts on this?

It's not exactly what you describe, but perhaps you could  
make use of this routine:

<http://cspar.uah.edu/~mallozzir/software/idl/info/xvarexport.html>

Regards,

-bob

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<http://gammaray.msfc.nasa.gov/>

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