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Subject: Accessing "main" level variables

Posted by [Michael Lefsky](#) on Tue, 18 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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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?

Michael

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