Subject: Re: get variables name
Posted by davidf on Wed, 05 Apr 2000 07:00:00 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

R.Bauer (R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de) writes:

> I like to know the name of a variable which is submitted as input to a
> procedure
>
> e.g
>
> pro test,var
> help,var
> end
>
> a=1
> test,a
>
> Is it possible to get inside test the information that test was called
> with a.

My life is totally out of control at the moment, so I haven't
had the opportunity to write this up for my web page, but
here is part of a correspondence I recently received from
Paul Woodford, an IDL user, concerning the undocumented
ROUTINE_NAMES function:

   routine_names(variables=0) - variable names at current level
   routine_names(variables=1) - variable names at main level
   routine_names(variables=2) - variable names at one level down from main
   routine_names(variables=-1) - variable names at one level up from current
   routine_names(variables=-2) - variable names at two levels up from current

   But wait, that's not all... Take a look at how routine_names is used in
   gethelp - you can use routine_names to actually fetch a variable from a
   different level. For instance, if you have a variable named 'blah' one
   level up from your current level, you can get it using

   blah_here = routine_names('blah', fetch=-1)

Now, I would add a STRONGLY worded caution here. This routine is
COMPLETELY undocumented. I suspect there is a reason for that.
When you write your program relying on this behavior, and RSI
changes it in the next release (which is their prerogative with
a COMPLETELY undocumented function), then I don't want to hear
any whining! :-)

Cheers,

David

--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155