
Subject: IDL/IDLDE Quirk?

Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Wed, 17 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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I am running IDL 5.3.1 on a Win2k machine and have noticed an annoying quirk in IDLDE and am wondering if it is the user or application.

When I compile my program IDLDE sometimes thinks that VARIABLES are FUNCTIONS. This never happens the first time I compile a program but sometime after the first run->break->debug->recompile->rerun cycle. This problem isn't limited to variables in the main procedure.

a chunk of example code:

```
dfiles = DIALOG_PICKFILE(FILTER = '*.dat', $  
  TITLE = 'Select drifter .dat files to open.', /MULTIPLE_FILES, $  
  /MUST_EXIST, /READ)
```

```
IF (dfiles(0) NE "") THEN BEGIN
```

When I see this problem, IDLDE displays "dfiles" in light blue (as it displays all functions) after compile and IDL expect's dfiles to be a function and returns the error on execution:

```
% Attempt to call undefined procedure/function: 'DFILES'.
```

This problem isn't limited to this one variable. It makes this "mistake" with the same variables over and over and changing their names doesn't help.

This problem isn't limited to this one project although it doesn't happen to all my projects. I have one main program that calls a number of separate procedures and functions contained within my project. The only cure is to exit IDL, restart and reload my project which will give me one or two more compiles then the problem pops up again.

I have to admit that I just moved to IDLDE on windows from a text editor and CLI on UNIX. Maybe I am doing something wrong?
