Subject: No. of variables allowed?
Posted by Med Bennett on Wed, 09 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Greetings,

I am having a rather severe problem with IDL 5.0.2. I have a IDL data
file with a lot of variables, currently about 250. When I ran a program
that created som new variables, I found to my horror that IDL was
replacing variable contents with the contents of other variables, i.e. a
variable called 'AREAID', intead of being a string array of size 16, was
now a float[193], etc. This was occuring without any warnings or error
messages being given; only when some of my routines begin failing due
to data having been overwitten did I realize what was going on. It
appears that when I attempted to create variables in excess of 255 (a
guess) , IDL began to randomly reassign existing variables with new
contents. This is very disturbing, as the integrity of a lot of my data
is now in question. Some questions: Is there an absolute limit on the
number of variables in a .sav file? Do later versions of IDL have this
limit? Why is there no warning of a limit being reached? I realize now
that I need to compartmentalize my data and reduce the number of
variables in a single session, but I'm curious if others have had this
problem or have any suggestions. Thanks in advance-

A slightly panicked
Med Bennett