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Subject: A related question...

Posted by [Med Bennett](#) on Wed, 09 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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OK, I have tried rewriting my procedure to reduce the number of main level variables created by passing all of the variables it needs, rather than running it as a main level program. However, I now get the message

```
'% Procedure/function called with too many parameters: XSPLIT.'
```

I'm trying to give it 14 variables as parameters. What's a lousy programmer to do?

Med Bennett wrote:

> 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', instead of being a string array of size 16, was  
> now a float[193], etc. This was occurring without any warnings or error  
> messages being given; only when some of my routines begin failing due  
> to data having been overwritten 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

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