Subject: Re: translating an array name to a string Posted by John-David T. Smith on Thu, 19 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Craig Markwardt wrote:

- > Craig Markwardt <craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu> writes:
- >> Second, your check to see if a variable is undefined is rather
- >> convoluted. It involves two passes to get it right. I prefer instead
- >> to use the N ELEMENTS command to immediately determine whether a
- >> variable is undefined. Unlike *assigning* an undefined variable,
- >> which does produce an error, simply taking the N ELEMENTS of an
- >> undefined variable will not cause an error.

>

- > Ooops, this is actually a mistake on my part, at least on versions of
- > IDL earlier than v5.3.

- ROUTINE NAMES(NAME, FETCH=1) will
- * succeed if a variable exists and is defined
- * return an undefined value if the variable exists but is undefined
- * utterly fail if the variable doesn't exist, stopping execution

That's not the behavior I see in 5.3. I get the 2nd behavior for both of the latter two cases, and your first code version works as advertised. (I like it better too.)

JD

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