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Subject: Re: include files in IDL programs  
Posted by [ngls](#) on Fri, 17 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT  
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If you're only interested in this for a structure, try using IDL's "automatic structure definition".

If you create a PROCEDURE with the same name as the structure, but followed by `__DEFINE` (that's two underscores) and save it as a `.pro` with the same name then IDL will look for this file the when it encounters a reference to your undefined structure. Running the code will then define the structure.

The example the online help:

```
PRO mystruct__define
  tmp = { mystruct, a:1.0, b:'string' }
END
```

We use it all the time and it works a treat. The same method is used for object definition.

Justin

[rhskelto@atm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:rhskelto@atm.ox.ac.uk) (Randall Skelton) wrote in  
<Pine.LNX.4.21.0011171001370.11594-100000@mulligan.atm.ox.ac.uk>:

```
> Hello all,
>
> This is a longshot but is there any way to have an 'include file' in IDL.
> i.e. I have a data structure which is rather complicated (and big in type)
> and I don't want to see it in every program/subroutine that I write. Is
> there anyway just to have it included with a simple '#include blah.pro' or
> something similar?
>
> Thanks in advance,
>
> Randall
>
```