
Subject: Re: Cant find functions in lib

Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Fri, 06 Apr 2001 13:45:24 GMT

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"Kenneth P. Bowman" wrote:

>
> In article <MPG.1536350bbbff2315989dce@news.frii.com>, David Fanning
> <davidf@dfanning.com> wrote:
>
>> Yes, it has to be LAST, but really only if you want it
>> to work all of the time. :-)
>
> I have never understood the reason(s) for this, and find it somewhat
> inconvenient. If I have (say) a procedure and a few related functions
> that I would logically keep in the same file, it also seems logical to
> me to put the "main" procedure (the one whose name matches the
> filename) at the beginning of the file, rather than burying it at then
> end. Why doesn't IDL simply compile everything in a file? What value
> does the user get from stopping the compilation part of the way through
> a file? (Aside from confusing newbies, of course, which has, at least,
> mild entertainment value.)

The answer, if you can call it that, is that that is the way it's done. At some point someone had to make a decision about how to do this (probably the illustrious DS sitting in front of a PDP-11/70 terminal....). However, I don't see any problem with this method. It's a relatively simple way to, uh, encourage programmers to group what could be considered as "PRIVATE" functions/procedures with the "PUBLIC" namesake function/procedure, i.e. the last one. If there was to be a change to the way this worked I would prefer that, while IDL would still compile everything in the file, *ONLY* the namesake routine be available to the outside world. If you require the preceding routines outside the namesake procedure, stick it in its own file. Not very sophisticated I'll grant you (without introducing all manner of IDL "directives" indicating which routine is private or public?).

I don't know how this would be done, or even if it can. If it was, I'm sure it would break about 99% of IDL code out there.

paulv

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Paul van Delst A little learning is a dangerous thing;
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring;
Ph: (301)763-8000 x7274 There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
Fax:(301)763-8545 And drinking largely sobers us again.
paul.vandelst@noaa.gov Alexander Pope.
