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Subject: Re: Obtaining variable names as strings  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Mon, 14 May 2001 15:38:54 GMT  
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Martin Schultz wrote:

>  
> Ian Dean <[ian.d.dean@baesystems.com](mailto:ian.d.dean@baesystems.com)> writes:  
>  
> 1.) please don't use html mail in future posts.  
>  
> 2.) i'm still not entirely sure what you want to do here, but from  
> your description it sounds as if there are several things done in  
> an unnecessarily complex way? Even if the include file is sacrosanct  
> as you say (BTW: I would never accept such a statement), you could  
> still treat it as a normal ASCII file and read in the variable definitions  
> e.g. into structures like { varname:"Joe", value:"200" } or into  
> two arrays: strarr() and values(). This would make searching and  
> matching much easier.  
>  
> 3.) but if you really need to include the include file as such,  
> Reimar Bauer can probably tell you how to use the undocumented  
> features of routine\_name() to achieve what you want.  
>  
> Martin  
>

Hi, Ian

in the past I have used some variables in the same way I think as  
you like to do it now.

The following function finds defined variables without structures.  
They are removed by some statements in the routine.

[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_source/idl\\_html/dbase/download/variab.tar.gz](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/variab.tar.gz)

This function uses the internal routine routine\_info. This is an  
undocumented routine and it could  
be that it will be removed in future releases.  
Many routines e.g. Craigs restore or the read\_ascii etc. are using some  
features of this  
routine.

I prefer myself reading variabels in structures mentioned by Martin see  
point 2.

regards  
Reimar

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Reimar Bauer

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<http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/>

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a IDL library at Forschungszentrum Jülich

[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_lib\\_intro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html)

<http://www.fz-juelich.de/zb/text/publikation/juel3786.html>

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