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Subject: Re: Discussion on global variables in IDL  
Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Wed, 08 Aug 2001 10:55:17 GMT  
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"Pavel A. Romashkin" <pavel.romashkin@noaa.gov> writes:

> ...  
> Common blocks are useful - there is little doubt about it. But I can see  
> very, very few instances when they are the only way. And the entire idea  
> of "global" variables seems to me to be resulting from the evolutionary  
> approach to programming - start with command line data analyses, get  
> tired of copy-paste. write code, expand it and still need to access the  
> data the way you started it.

And this is exactly their weakness. I would guess that most IDL applications are born out of ad-hoc code once written to analyse a specific situation, and then generalized. To get rid of common blocks in this process is much harder than to avoid them in the first place.

Cheers,

Martin

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