Subject: Re: Discussion on global variables in IDL Posted by Martin Schultz on Wed, 08 Aug 2001 10:55:17 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

"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 provess is much harder than to avoid them in the first place.

Cheers,

Martin