
Subject: Re: IDL procedure "knowing its own name"
Posted by [Liam E. Gumley](#) on Wed, 29 Aug 2001 14:36:16 GMT
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Marshall Perrin wrote:

- > Let's say I'm running somethingorother.pro. Is there any way for the procedure
- > to itself determine that IDL is running a file called somethingorother.pro,
- > indeed, specifically /some/file/path/somethingorother.pro?
- >
- > In more detail, what I've got is a script which processes a bunch of data
- > and produces some output which gets stored in a user-specified directory.
- > This script gets modified occasionally over time; it's useful to have a
- > copy of the script stored along with the data as a historical record so
- > that you can later look back and see exactly how the data was processed.
- > However, this tool is used on a number of different systems, and the
- > file path to the script varies from system to system. Right now I accomplish
- > this by hard-coding the path and name of the procedure as variables inside
- > the procedure, which means I have to change it by hand for each system.
- > Any ideas on how to automate this?

It sounds like a version control problem. I concur with other members of this group that CVS works very well for version control of IDL source code. If you use CVS or any other tool that supports RCS tags, you can simply embed an RCS tag (such as \$Id\$) in an IDL string variable:

```
rcs_id = '$Id: imdisp.pro,v 1.45 2000/08/28 16:17:14 gumley Exp $'
```

The procedure or function can then print or save the string variable to a file when it is called, and CVS takes care of inserting the version number, date, and owner of the last modification.

For more CVS information, see

<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley/>

under the heading 'CVS'.

Cheers,
Liam.
Practical IDL Programming
<http://www.gumley.com/>
