
Subject: Re: User functions and data name conflicts
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Wed, 05 Sep 2001 07:14:35 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

```
>
> Richard Smart (smart@to.astro.it) writes:
>
>> Our system have just upgraded to a new IDL with more user
>> functions, one of these new ones is pm, and obsolete
>> procedure to print matrices, one of the structured variables I
>> have been using for the last few years also has this name
>> and I have a few 1000 lines of code using this variable in
>> various ways, now none of my code runs as the variable conflicts
>> with the function, is there any way to tell IDL to ignore this
>> particular user function or do I have to go back and change
>> my variable name?
>
> Are you sure!?
```

Yes I am too.

First time we got such a problem was by an upgrade to 5.4.1.

The function `file_info` was added by Version 5.4.1. Version 5.4.1 is only available on unix systems as patch. In this version this function is undocumented. In the next version 5.5 it is documented.

(I got a lot of fun because this changes were done one day before I gave a lecture about some routines of our library. A lot of examples and routines were changed in the night before the lecture. The update was necessary because of a bug in the license management by floating licenses.)

In our earlier library we had a same named function which returns a named structure too. The 5.4.1 function returns a same named structure with different tags.

The name is defined. So you can build the `file_info` "object-structure" by

```
a={file_info}
```

```
IDL> a={file_info}
IDL> help,a,/str
** Structure FILE_INFO, 21 tags, length=60:
  NAME      STRING  "
```

```

EXISTS      BYTE      0
READ       BYTE      0
WRITE      BYTE      0
EXECUTE    BYTE      0
REGULAR    BYTE      0
DIRECTORY  BYTE      0
BLOCK_SPECIAL BYTE    0
CHARACTER_SPECIAL BYTE  = 0
NAMED_PIPE BYTE      0
SETUID     BYTE      0
SETGID     BYTE      0
SOCKET     BYTE      0
STICKY_BIT BYTE      0
SYMLINK    BYTE      0
DANGLING_SYMLINK BYTE  = 0
MODE       LONG      0
ATIME      LONG64    0
CTIME      LONG64    0
MTIME      LONG64    0
SIZE       LONG64    0

```

If it is possible to start our own routine the routine itself stops by an error in the moment the structure is created because of the name conflict.

In our case it was necessary to change the routine name and the structure name in all routines where it was used.

This is easy done by idlde.

First do a text search on all routines and load them into idlde.

By the replace you can select all windows and then replace your string to another.

Then try compile each routine and store it.

I expect some more problems because normally I am using names for routines and structures

by the meaning what the routine did. I welcome new routines by new versions because

RSI learns by what the users are doing which routines are necessary.

I will not give stupid names to my routines because nobody else will found and use this routines.

So there is some risk that some versions later the routine name or structure name is used internal.

But I don't understand why patches are not documented!!

In newer documentations should be a list of the named structures too and which changes

were done to them.

cheers

Reimar

>
> I've heard of functions being confused with variables,
> but I've never, ever heard of variables being confused
> with functions.
>
> In any case, take the darn PM function out of the
> obsolete directory if you aren't using it. Or, remove
> the obsolete directory from the path. Or, if you *have*
> to have the PM function available for someone in your
> organization, move it to a ReallyReallyObsolete subdirectory,
> and let them add that directory to their path. :-)
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> --
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=====
a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html

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

read something about linux / windows
<http://www.suse.de/de/news/hotnews/MS.html>
