Subject: Re: Global Variable Posted by Martin Downing on Mon, 01 Oct 2001 09:40:36 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

First comment is to only use global variables sparingly, sometimes they are appropriate but try not to rely on them to make programming simpler. I know of three ways, the SYSTEM variables are fully global, and may be user defined. COMMON BLOCK variables are shared between those routines which include a

declaration for the common block, these are very suitable for those programs where you cant find a way of writing your code without creating global variables, but do not want the variables to be seen by any old routine.

```
system variable eg:
```

```
IDL>filepaths = {tag:"FILEPATHS", bin:bin}
IDL>defsysy, '!fpaths', filepaths; a variable for local paths
```

now you can use this variable from anywhere in your code as:

```
IDL> print, !fpaths.bin
d:\martin\bin\
-----
```

For common block variables you need a block identifier then a list of variables in the block. Note that the order is all that is relevent and that the first declaration defines the size of the block: eg

```
pro foo
  COMMON FOO_COMMON_VARIABLES, a,b,c,d
  a = "first"
  b="second"
  c="third"
  d="fourth"
  print_foo
end
pro print foo
  ; note later calls do not have to decare all block variables
  COMMON FOO COMMON VARIABLES, d,c,var3
  print, d
  print, c,
  print, var3
end
```

the result of calling this procedure is demonstrates that there is no association between variable names in the common block just the variable order.

IDL> foo	
first	
second	
third	

Lastly there is a *really* nice way of passing around all the 'global' variables you need in your widget programs using get/set_uvalue which. This is my favourite tip learnt from David's books so I shall leave him to describe. In essence you call:

WIDGET_CONTROL, base, SET_UVALUE=info_structure WIDGET_CONTROL, event.top, GET_UVALUE=info_structure

cheers

Martin

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> Anybody know how can I define al global variable?.

> > Thanx. http://campus.uab.es/~2034008 > | (http://www.upc.es/ehma/gmh)