
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>defsyst, '!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 relevant 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 declare all block variables
```

```
COMMON FOO_COMMON_VARIABLES, d,c,var3
```

```
print, d
```

```
print, c,
```

```
print, var3
```

```
end
```

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

cheers

news:3BB82DB7.265E2670@ehma.upc.es...

 \geq \succ
$$\geq + \text{-----} +$$

> | (<http://www.upc.es/ehma/gmh>) |

 ∇

✓

 \vee