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Subject: Re: convert string into the name of a variable

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2001 16:41:01 GMT

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Frederic Raison wrote:

> Is there anybody who could tell me if there is an IDL instruction, like  
> in Matlab, able to convert a string into the name of a variable and  
> vice-versa?

Runtime variable name definition. The history repeats itself for sure.

I was told by RSI developers when I started in IDL that once you find yourself wanting this, it means that your programming needs serious phylosophy readjustment.

One side effect is that any time you save and restore a runtime-named variable you need to again find out what the name of it is. And it is not the only flaw.

I came to IDL from IGOR Pro, where meaningful names are the cornerstone of it all and programming holds together by explicit naming conventions.

But in IGOR it is so because you have all your variables at the global (\*main\*) level. IDL allows a lot more flexible approach because it is a \*reuseable\* development environment.

Cheers,  
Pavel

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