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Subject: Re: library help -- multiple procedures in one file  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Fri, 24 May 2002 18:09:38 GMT  
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Chris O'Dell wrote:

>  
> This question is mostly aimed at people who build libraries for public  
> use (David, Craig, etc). I am putting together a lot of the little  
> useful routines I have written as a grad student into a library, and was  
> wondering, should I just make EVERY procedure/function have its own  
> file? In PASCAL, I was a big proponent of nested functions;  
> functions/procedures really ONLY used by one other procedure or  
> function. But in IDL, those functions aren't compiled on the fly and  
> you have to open the darn function file and compile them all every time  
> you start idlde. Is there any way around this?

FWIW, I do it the way both Liam and David recommend. Every function procedure in its own file. The only time I have more than one function procedure in a file (as far as I can recall) is for widget code (all the event handlers and what not are listed first) and for object code (the few, well....one, I have written). And even so, for the widget stuff at least, you can still have separate files for the event handlers and whatever else is required. I did that once for a particularly obtuse widget program I wrote (back when it was still a novelty to do that stuff).

I never use .compile (or whatever) unless I'm actively modifying the file during development.

paulv

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