
Subject: Re: library help -- multiple procedures in one file
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 24 May 2002 16:37:59 GMT
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Chris O'Dell (odell@cmb.physics.wisc.edu) writes:

> 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?

There should never be any reason to manually compile a file in IDL. And it is OK to have many procedures and functions that are used only once. Just put them in a file `_` in front of `_` the module that has the same name as the file. The procedures and functions will be utility routines for the "command" module. (The command module is always the LAST module in the file and has the same name as the file itself.)

If you think in terms of "commands" that you are building. Then you will have as many files in your library as you have commands that you want people to know about and use.

Sometimes utility routines become more useful than you thought they would become, and they want to be used by some "other" command. Then, you take that utility module out of the file it is in, put it in a file of its own, give it the "command" name, and you now have another command that everyone can use.

Cheers,

David

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