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Subject: Re: Defining constants in IDL?

Posted by [ronn](#) on Sat, 22 Jun 2002 16:55:33 GMT

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in article af0nid\$1ets\$1@agate.berkeley.edu, Marshall Perrin at mperrin+news@arkham.berkeley.edu wrote on 6/21/02 10:31 PM:

> Dominic Zarro <dzarro@yahoo.com> wrote:

>> IDL is very forgiving. Just define a constant to be any name and set its

>> value. For example,

>>

>> IDL> a = 100

>>

>> Just be careful not to redefine and, hence, overwrite the variable 'a'.

>

> The problem with this approach is that it is only visible within one

> particular file. There's no mechanism akin to C's header files for

> getting a constant into multiple source files, something I frequently find

> myself missing.

Hi Marshall,

Actually there is something similiar to including a header file. What you need is a file with no header (i.e. pro or function as the first line) and no end statement. For example,

```
a = 0
```

```
True = 1
```

```
False = 0
```

```
yes = 'YES'
```

could be saved in a file called constants.pro.

To include this in your own code you would do this.

```
pro myProcedure, p1, p2
```

```
@constants
```

```
...
```

```
...
```

```
end
```

The @ sign acts as an include statement to the compiler.

-Ronn

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"Application Development with IDL" & 1/2 programming book updated for IDL5.5!

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