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Subject: Re: Delvar?

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Fri, 28 Jun 2002 21:07:26 GMT

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David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> writes:

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> David Fanning (david@dfanning.com) writes:
>
>> Alright. First of all, this code is inside a procedure.
>> That's important. UNDEFINE looks like this:
>>
>> .*****
>> ;
>> PRO UNDEFINE, varname
>> IF (N_Elements(varname) NE 0) THEN tempvar = Size(Temporary(varname))
>> END
>> .*****
>> ;
>
> Oh, oh. I think my problem is that I'm not anal enough. :-(
>
> It was gently pointed out to me that, uh, the SIZE function
> isn't really doing anything worthwhile here, so why put
> it in?
```

Hi David--

Actually I like the SIZE() function there. If VARNAME is a large array, then you are just wasting cycles copying it to TEMPVAR, only to have it erased a moment later when the UNDEFINE procedure returns.

What I do often enough is the following slight variation.

```
.*****
;
PRO UNDEFINE, varname
  varname = 0
  tempvar = temporary(varname)
END
.*****
;
```

This assures that the memory associated with VARNAME is released first, and then the TEMPORARY() call is only there to release the "0". In the line-count contest with you, I lose, but in the character count contest, I win!

Craig

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Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D.      EMAIL: [craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu](mailto:craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu)

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