
Subject: Re: saving variables between calls to a procedure?
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 31 Jul 2002 22:26:48 GMT
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Paul van Delst (paul.vandelst@noaa.gov) writes:

```
>> pro define,ptr  
>>   *ptr=[*ptr,10]  
>> end  
>
```

```
> Hmm. That seems like an extremely dangerous thing to do - couldn't you clobber something  
> by concatenating like that? If IDL is smart enough to recognise that the next bit of  
> memory may be used by something else it then seems that you would end up with a  
> non-contiguous data structure (in the figurative).
```

This doesn't seem dangerous to me (perhaps because I use the construct all the time). It seems like one of those wonderful things IDL occasionally does that makes you think to yourself "Now, by God, that's how software **ought** to work!"

In any case, it works, over and over and over. And it never occurred to me that non-contiguous data storage could be involved, even remotely. Not only that, I don't even have pointer memory leaking like a sieve, which--I think--is the totally miraculous part. :-)

Cheers,

David

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