
Subject: Re: string definition question

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Tue, 14 Jan 2003 20:32:57 GMT

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"Paul van Delst" <paul.vandelst@noaa.gov> wrote in message
news:3E2432EC.18E46318@noaa.gov...

> ..

> I'm a bit anal about argument checking in IDL. After establishing that the
correct

> number of arguments has been passed using:

>

> n_arguments = 1

> IF (N_PARAMS() LT n_arguments) THEN \$

> MESSAGE, 'Invalid number of arguments.', \$

> /NONAME, /NOPRINT

I see your actual question has been answered by others, so permit me to take
another tack. Why do you set the NONAME & NOPRINT keywords? And why check
the number of parameters? Isn't it better to check each argument to see that
it's been defined (with N_ELEMENTS) or that it's available for output (with
ARG_PRESENT) as necessary. The additional N_PARAMS check lets you
distinguish arguments that have been given an undefined value from those
that are completely missing; I don't think this is a very interesting
distinction.

I ask because I feel that I have never really sorted out error checking in
IDL. I guess that I lean towards a minimal approach: if a piece of code
requires that a value be defined then I'll learn soon enough if it's not.
(It's the code that silently gives you the wrong answer that you've got to
look out for.)

Mark Hadfield "Ka puwaha te tai nei, Hoesa tatou"

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