
Subject: Re: string definition question

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 14 Jan 2003 18:04:27 GMT

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mwvogel wrote:

```
>
> As my news server refuses my post, I'll paste it here :-)
>
> //////////////////////////////////
> I would try KEYWORD_PRESENT; with A defined as 'IDL', B as " and C
> undefined I get the following :
> IDL> A = 'IDL' & B = " & PRINT, KEYWORD_SET(A), KEYWORD_SET(B),
> KEYWORD_SET(C)
>
> 1 0 0
>
> I guess that works in routines too.
```

D'oh! Why didn't I think of that!?

Thanks!

paulv

```
>
> Mika
> //////////////////////////////////
>
> Mika
>
> "Paul van Delst" <paul.vandelst@noaa.gov> schreef in bericht
> news:<3E2432EC.18E46318@noaa.gov>...
>> Hello there,
>> Although I should probably know the answer to this, since all my IDL
>> reference books have
>> been borrowed, hope you don't mind me asking here.
>> 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
>>
>> My standard method for checking string arguments (like filenames to read)
```

```
>> is something
>> like:
>> IF ( N_ELEMENTS( FileName ) EQ 0 ) THEN BEGIN
>>   MESSAGE, 'Input FileName argument not defined!', $
>>   /NONAME, /NOPRINT
>>
>> IF ( STRLEN( FileName ) EQ 0 ) THEN $
>>   MESSAGE, 'Input FileName argument not defined!', $
>>   /NONAME, /NOPRINT
>> If I pass a zero-length string, e.g. FileName="", the N_ELEMENTS() test
>> passes so I always
>> test for a non-zero string length (it's happened). If I combine the two
>> tests using AND,
>> then if the variable is undefined, the STRLEN() function generates an
>> errors (since its
>> argument must be defined).
>> The above works great, but I have always felt that it should be
>> unnecessary. Is there a
>> one-step method to test that the argument is actually defined AND that the
>> string length
>> is not zero? Would the ARG_PRESENT function be useful here somehow? I read
>> the on-line
>> manual, but I really don't grok the text.
>> Thanks for any info,
>> paulv
>> -- Paul van Delst
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