
Subject: Re: Test if variable is a string
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Sat, 15 Feb 2003 13:28:17 GMT
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Carsten Dominik wrote:

> Hello,
>
> I must be blind: How do I test for the type of the object contained
> in a variable? I am writing a procedure and want to allow one of the
> arguments to be either a string or a number - but the program must of
> course find out which it is?
>
> This is my main problem with IDL: I am **never** able to correctly guess
> the name of a function for a particular purpose.
>
> So what is the magic word for determining the type of a variable?
> Thanks.
>
> - Carsten
>
>

Dear Carsten,

a bit late but I believe the opposite check is better to test if the
string is a regular number because if you test only about types it could
happen that's an exponent number is defined as string.

I often use a routine named `string_is_number`

you'll find it here:

http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/download/string_is_number.tar.gz

regards

reimar

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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html
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