

Sangwoo writes:

```
> I have a simple question. Is it possible to create a .sav application
> from a procedure including command line arguments? I know that making
> a .sav file from a procedure like below is absolutely possible :
>
> pro example
> .....
> end
>
> But, isn't it possible from a procedure like below? :
>
> pro example, a, b
> .....
> end
>
> I know that IDL VM doesn't allow access to command line. Does it mean
> the answer to my question is negative?
```

No, it means the answer to your question is complicated. :-)

It is true that you can't pass command line arguments to IDL save files. (There is no, uh, command line.) But that is not to say you can't write procedures with arguments and save them as save files. It's just that those arguments can't be there when the file is run. If you need the arguments, you have to work out how to get them. In other words, you have to treat them as optional arguments.

One option is to open a dialog and allow the user to enter the arguments. Another option is to read the arguments out of a data file (which some people create with a shell script so that their program **appears** to accept command line arguments.

Rob Dimeo brought a nifty little program to my attention this week that was written by Jim Pendleton, an RSI programmer who writes awfully clever IDL code, that may help with the latter. The program is named SOURCEROOT. It allows you to store data files in the same directory as your pro files, and then distribute the files

to any location. The SOURCEROOT program figures out which directory the pro files are being run from, so it can locate the data files without having to know ahead of time where they are. Neat. It works like this:

```
file = filepath('data.dat',root = sourceroot())
```

You can find the program here:

<http://www.rsinc.com/codebank/search.asp?FID=35>

There are probably other solutions as well. But you have to be pretty creative to discover some of them. :-)

Cheers,

David

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