
Subject: Re: keyword_set bug or feature
Posted by [rivers](#) on Sat, 13 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <PHIL.95May12090139@peace.med.ohio-state.edu>, phil@peace.med.ohio-state.edu (Phil) writes:

```
> Thanks to those who responded to my ? concerning common blocks.  
>  
> I just can across another 'feature' and was wondering if others felt  
> that it is really a 'bug' or if there is some way to over come it. It  
> has to do with keywords in functions or procedures. I use several and  
> check to see if the are set using  
>  
> IF NOT(keyword_set(key)) THEN BEGIN  
>   ;set a default value here  
> ENDIF  
>  
> The problem comes in if the user wants to set key = 0. If so then it  
> appears to the above test that the keyword is not set even though in  
> the function call the user typed  
>
```

keyword_set is intended for use with switches, i.e. parameters which can either be 0 or 1. 0 or not present means switch not set, 1 means switch set.

If you want to detect that the keyword is present, even if the value is zero, then you should use n_elements().

Mark Rivers	(312) 702-2279 (office)
CARS	(312) 702-9951 (secretary)
Univ. of Chicago	(312) 702-5454 (FAX)
5640 S. Ellis Ave.	(708) 922-0499 (home)
Chicago, IL 60637	rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu (Internet)
