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Subject: Re: delete variable name from memory

Posted by [Antonio Santiago](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 16:30:39 GMT

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saplizki@gmail.com wrote:

> I need to delete my variable from the variable name list.  
> but i don't locate at the top level (i'm in a gui program) so i can't  
> 'delvar' it.  
> also i can't (don't want to) zero it because it won't remove from the  
> variable list (when i press help or use ROUTINE\_NAMES or ROUTINE\_INFO)  
> and i use that list at my program.  
>

Another way to undefine a variable different from David's solution is  
with pointers:

```
IDL> .reset
IDL> a=10
IDL> help
% At $MAIN$
A      INT      =      10
Compiled Procedures:
  $MAIN$
```

Compiled Functions:

```
IDL> PTR_FREE, PTR_NEW(a, /NO_COPY)
IDL> help
% At $MAIN$
A      UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
Compiled Procedures:
  $MAIN$
```

Compiled Functions:

```
IDL> ...
```

The important thing is PTR\_NEW(a, /NO\_COPY) creates a copy of 'a' into the HEAP memory and undefines 'a' (with NO\_COPY keyword) and returns a pointer variable that "points" to the HEAP memory. Then we free this pointer variable.

Also, I suppose (better I'm sure) David's solution is much more good than this because he use the TEMPORARY function that is designed for a similar use that you need.

Bye.

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