
Subject: Re: Suppressing diagnostic messages en masse
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Fri, 03 Feb 2006 01:06:01 GMT
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Ed Hyer wrote:

> Hey great minds,
>
> I am engaged in semi-permanent debugging of some pretty long scripts,
> which in the course of developing I have peppered with PRINT statements
> to achieve various diagnostic ends.
>
> I don't think the script is "final," whatever that means, but it's time
> to do some production runs, where the script will be invoked 10,000
> times, instead of the usual 1.
>
> I can do a search-and-replace to comment out the diagnostics for this
> purpose, but what would really be nice is if I could somehow put a
> keyword flag into the routine that, when set, would suppress|promote
> the diagnostic messages. Sounds like the sort of thing that might
> exist. Anyone know how to do this?

I don't know about "system" level keywords to do this, but I usually add a "Debug" keyword to my procedures - particularly widget code, but other stuff too.

You should be able to do a supervised global search and replace so that
PRINT,
becomes
IF (KEYWORD_SET(Debug)) THEN PRINT,

However, if you have a lot of PRINTs, you might want to "block" them, e.g.

```
IF ( KEYWORD_SET(Debug) ) THEN BEGIN
  PRINT, x
  PRINT, y
  PRINT, a,b,c
  ....
ENDIF
```

It depends on how you've written the code. Lots of "IF (KEYWORD_SET(Debug))..." lines could slow things down a bit (and "a bit" multiplied by 10000 is a lot).

A sed or awk filter for the code might also be an option. That is, you run the code through sed or awk to comment or uncomment the debug print statements depending on your need.

paulv

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