
Subject: Re: procedure name quirk
Posted by [Foldy Lajos](#) on Tue, 13 Jun 2006 09:44:38 GMT
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Hi,

it's all about identifiers. Variable names, function/procedure names, structure names are identifiers.

In theory, the IDL 6.3 manual says:

Each identifier must begin with a letter and can contain from 1 to 128 characters. The second and subsequent characters can be letters, digits, the underscore character, or the dollar sign.

In practice, _ (for _extra) and ! (for system variables) are also permitted as leading character. (The manual even lists _INIT as unacceptable variable name, but IDL happily accepts it :-)

A quick check shows that other characters are not accepted:

```
for i=32b,127b do $
  if ( idl_validname(string(i)) ne " ) then $
    print, string(i)
```

prints only _, ! and letters.

The 8-bit version of this test is left to the reader :-)
just an example:

```
IDL> Ö=1      ; character 214
IDL> help
% At $MAIN$
V      INT    =      1
```

Ö is converted to char 86 (ie highest bit masked).

regards,
lajos

On Tue, 13 Jun 2006, Martin Rother wrote:

> it is possible to write a procedure named '!'.
