
Subject: Re: wrapper functions

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 06 Oct 2006 01:28:09 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Robbie writes:

- > I disagree, procedures should not use N_ELEMENTS() to check for
- > UNDEFINED positional parameters.

Say what!? I would argue that procedures should ALWAYS use N_ELEMENTS to check for undefined parameters. You should use N_ELEMENTS *everywhere*!

- > It should be presumed that the
- > positional parameters are defined according to the documentation,
- > anything else should throw an error.

Even I'm not that anal, Robbie. Do you really do this? Seriously? It's a LOT of work for almost no payoff. Do you check data type, too?

- > If you want to write a procedure which has more relaxed conditions then
- > I would recommend using keywords.
- >
- > Don't most IDL procedures use N_PARAMS() to check for positional
- > parameters?
- > This means that there is a difference between calling
- > READ_PICT, Filename, Image, R, G, B
- > and
- > READ_PICT, Filename, Image
- > regardless of whether R,G,B are defined or not

I'm not a big fan of optional positional parameters, either. My rule of thumb is that required parameters are positional parameters and optional parameters are keyword parameters, unless you have a VERY good reason for doing something else. And then, of course, if you write a lot of objects you soon learn that life can be made a LOT easier if you just do away with positional parameters entirely.

But I never go ANYWHERE without my good ol' N_ELEMENTS by my side! :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
