
Subject: Re: wrapper functions

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Mon, 09 Oct 2006 18:03:21 GMT

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On Fri, 06 Oct 2006 14:06:41 -0700, Dometz wrote:

> Hey Ken,
>
> Yeah, I am still trying to find a solution that will allow my to write
> more or less completely transparent wrappers. Not quite there yet... or
> in other words havent figured out to what extend this is possible or
> not.

If you're simply passing through a known number of positional parameters, you don't need to check anything:

```
pro wrapper, a,b,c,_REF_EXTRA=e
  routine,a,b,c,_EXTRA=e
end
```

should do it. The a,b,c vars will either be defined if passed, or undefined if they weren't used.

There is a nice story in the archives about whether you can tell the difference between an undefined variable having been passed as a positional argument, and no argument having been passed at all (related to the sound of one hand clapping). The answer is yes, but since no code actually does this (certainly no RSI code), this simple wrapper method works fine.

A more complicated case arises when you want a dynamic number of positional arguments, for example with `call_procedure`. Then you are forced to build large switch statements, etc. Often you're better off building your own `_EXTRA` structures by hand in this case.

JD

P.S. See http://www.dfanning.com/tips/keyword_check.html
