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Subject: Re: wrapper functions

Posted by [Dominic Metzger](#) on Fri, 06 Oct 2006 05:32:14 GMT

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Wow, I got you guys started on something here... thanks for your input.

So assuming that READ\_PICT would also have some keyword parameters, then I could use REF\_EXTRA in the following way... correct?

```
pro READ_PICT_WRAPPER, Filename, Image, R, G, B, _REF_EXTRA=E
case (N_PARAMS()) of
5: READ_PICT, Filename, Image, R, G, B, _EXTRA=E
4: READ_PICT, Filename, Image, R, G, _EXTRA=E
3: READ_PICT, Filename, Image, R, _EXTRA=E
2: READ_PICT, Filename, Image, _EXTRA=E
else: message, "READ_PICT must have at least two parameters"
```

```
pro READ_PICT_WRAPPER, Filename, Image, R, G, B, _REF_EXTRA=E
IF N_Elements(B) EQ 0 THEN $
READ_PICT, Filename, Image, R, G, B, _EXTRA=E
ELSE...
```

For the second option: Could I build an array for { Filename, Image, R, G, B} and pass it in?

best regards,

dominic

David Fanning wrote:

> Kenneth P. Bowman writes:

>

>> I find that N\_PARAMS() with SWITCH is very handy for setting defaults in

>> procedures where optional positional parameters make sense.

>>

>> PRO BLAH, A, B, C

>>

>> SWITCH N\_PARAMS() OF

>> 0 : A = ...

>> 1 : B = ...

>> 2 : C = ...

>> ENDSWITCH

>

> In thinking about it, I guess I use N\_ELEMENTS for

> all my parameters because I can throw better errors

> since I know \*exactly\* which parameter is missing:

>

> IF N\_Elements(foo) EQ 0 THEN \$

> Message, 'Argument FOO must be a 2D array.'

>

> I can also trap the error of the user calling my

> routine with an undefined variable, rather than with

> a real variable. This happens more often than you would

> think in IDL programming courses. N\_PARAMS, of course,

> can't tell you much of anything about the parameter.

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

>

> P.S. And don't even get me started on the mostly

> mis-used KEYWORD\_SET. I see that function misused

> almost constantly in IDL programs to perform the

> function of N\_ELEMENTS. Folks, it DOESN'T!! :-)

>

> --

> David Fanning, Ph.D.

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> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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