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Subject: Re: Newbie IDL question

Posted by [Braedley](#) on Tue, 09 Jan 2007 04:04:57 GMT

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JD Smith wrote:

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> On Mon, 08 Jan 2007 15:40:55 -0800, tony.ohagan wrote:
>
>> I new to IDL but have lots of experience in other programming languages.
>>
>> It appears that all nested control statements IF/CASE/WHILE etc force me
>> to
>> suffix every line with & $ to avoid syntax errors. Is there any way of
>> ridding myself of this pain?
>>
>> Example:
>>
>> name = 'Larry'
>> CASE name OF & $
>>   'Larry': PRINT, 'Stooge 1' & $
>>   'Moe': PRINT, 'Stooge 2' & $
>>   'Curly': PRINT, 'Stooge 3' & $
>> ELSE: PRINT, 'Not a Stooge' & $
>> ENDCASE
>
> Do you mean from the command line? Put them in a file foo.pro sans & $
> and:
>
> IDL> .run foo
>
> JD
```

If this already in a program, you don't need the & and \$. If this is at the command line, I must ask, why are you using a case block at the command line? Seems, well, strange, but that's just me.

If you're using if, else, for, or while, and sometimes case and switch, then you should be using begin and end[if|else|for|while]. Here's a short example for each:

```
for stooge_num=0, 3 do begin
  case stooge_num of
  1:begin
    name='Larry'
    PRINT, 'Stooge 1'
  end
  2:begin
    name='Curly'
    PRINT, 'Stooge 2'
```

```
end
3:begin
  name='Moe'
  PRINT, 'Stooge 3'
end
else:begin
  name=""
  PRINT, 'Not A Stooge'
endelse
endcase
endfor
stooge_num=temporary(stooge_num)*(-2)
while stooge_num ne 0 do begin
  if stooge_num ne abs(stooge_num) then begin
    stooge_num=abs(temporary(stooge_num))
    print, 'Ahh, negative number!'
  endif else begin
    stooge_num--
    print, "We're on our way!"
  endelse
endwhile
```

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