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Subject: Re: Yet again, The Sky is Falling!  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Fri, 09 Mar 2007 21:11:08 GMT  
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David Fanning wrote:

> Paul van Delst writes:

>

>>> 2. Don't pass the same named variable as both an input and output

>>> parameter in a routine call. (Or as two output parameters!)

>> Good lord. Why would anyone do \*that\*? (In any language) :o)

>

> Well, because it seems "natural", for one thing. Consider

> the POSITION keyword to TVIMAGE when you don't know for

> sure if the user wants to preserve the aspect ratio of the

> image or not, but you are keenly interested in knowing

> where the image ended up.

Well, of course. That's normal and I do that a lot (for the above purpose and also to prevent memory leaks) in f95 all the time. The syntax would be

```
real, intent(in out) :: position(:)
```

> That's, uh, about the only example I can think of at the

> moment, but it seems a good one. :-)

That's not how I interpreted Mike's post. I meant if given a procedure like:

```
pro mypro, input_var, output_var
  output_var = input_var + 1.0
end
```

then don't call it thusly,

```
x = 1.0
mypro, x, x
```

I don't even know if it's possible in IDL... or f95..or C... or..? Hence my "why on earth...?"

cheers,

paulv

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Paul van Delst            Ride lots.  
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP/EMC

Eddy Merckx

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