
Subject: Re: new to IDL - question about modularity
Posted by [swingnut](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2007 20:56:40 GMT
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The best approach depends on what ELSE the xxx procedure is doing. On the one hand, xxx could be building xxx as one of multiple tasks, in which case xxx could well be left alone except for adding an argument that will have the array, or a structure containing the array in one of its fields. On the other hand, if xxx doesn't do anything but build the array, it really would be handier to make it a function. On the other other hand, if, for example, xxx initializes a whole bunch of variables, I'd recommend going changing xxx to be a function that returns a structure, one of whose fields contains this array you want for zzz. I have to say, putting it in a structure ain't a bad way to go -- I have a template for plotting code that uses a couple of structures (one of which is generated using FSC_Color, one of which contains estimated bin sizes for some satellite data generated using the header data for the satellite records I use); these structures really make it easier to do some things and to pass a collection of different types of data back and forth as a unit.

Making a structure is easy, you just put strings and variables together in a certain format: {tag, variable}, or, {first tag, first variable, second tag, second variable, ...}, where each tag will be the name used to access the value stored in that field. To get at values in the fields, you just store the structure in a variable and use the variable's name with a certain operator and a tag name:

```
myStruct={"tagOne", firstVariable, "tagTwo", secondVariable, ...}  
print, myStruct.tagOne
```

It can get a lot more complicated than this, but that's really not an issue at this point based on the info you've provided.

Here's a couple of handy links about structures in IDL.

http://www.dfanning.com/tips/recursive_struct_tags.html
http://groups.google.com/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/browse_thread/thread/1bca12b02ac21459/9ec919cd5115345d

On Jun 22, 5:48 pm, Josh <joshuamonta...@gmail.com> wrote:
> despite having five manuals on IDL in front of me, I'm having some
> trouble with writing modular code. I think it lies in my lack of

> understanding of the structure, but hopefully it's a simple issue...
>
> I'm using IDL 6.3, and have written a single .pro file that looks
> like,
>
> pro xxx
> ...
> end
>
> pro yyy
> ...
> end
>
> pro zzz
> ...
> end
>
> in an effort to break up the tasks to be done. However, within the
> zzz procedure I would like to access an array that was built in the
> xxx procedure. I realize that's not possible, and was hoping for some
> guidance as to a better way to do this.
>
> Thanks!
