
Subject: Re: What is the main difference between a script and a procedure?

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Thu, 04 Oct 2007 22:45:07 GMT

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On Wed, 03 Oct 2007 07:40:49 -0600, David Fanning wrote:

> mystea writes:

>

>> As far as I can tell, a script:

>> 1. Can't accept any arguments and can't take any extended loops.

>> 2. It can recognize any variable that exists in the current session

>> because it behaves just like a a list of commands in sequence.

>>

>> On the other hand, a procedure:

>> 1. Can accept arguments, but can't recognize any variables which exist

>> in current IDL session.

>

> What you are calling a "script", most people call a

> "batch file". This is a way to execute a series of

> commands "as if" you were typing them at the IDL

> command line. Since this is just about the most limited

> way of using IDL, batch files are typically used infrequently.

I use batch files as IDL equivalents of #include statements, to include frequently needed code, e.g. common block definitions, ala:

```
pro mypro,a,b,c
  @my_common
  my_common_var=2
end
```

So they aren't entirely useless.

JD
