
Subject: Using IDL from a perl script

Posted by [James Everton](#) on Fri, 19 Oct 2007 18:02:41 GMT

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Hi everybody,

I'm developing some web scripts in perl that interact with a database through various pre-written IDL procedures here at my work. The problem I'm having is getting arguments passed between the two. Passing from the perl into the IDL code is easy enough because I'm using the open() procedure and simply writing the strings as a block:

```
open(IDL, "|/usr/local/bin/idl -32");
print IDL <<"ENDIDL";
var1 = '$myPerlVar1'
var2 = '$myPerlVar2'
.compile my_web_script
my_web_script, var1, var2
ENDIDL
```

I'm wondering if there is any way to pass from this IDL block (say for instance that the my_web_script procedure was actually a function and was assigned to a new variable returnVar) out to the containing perl script. For those that don't know IDL, I'm quite certain that you can do this exact same open-block style with any other script, like bash for example, so it really might be more of a direct perl question.

Any insights would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

- James Everton
