
Subject: Re: Bug in N_PARAMS?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 26 Nov 2008 15:49:33 GMT

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Carsten Lechte writes:

```
> Kenneth P. Bowman wrote:
>> to provide default values for optional parameters.
>
> I wrote this little procedure for setting default values
> that I use a zillion times a day:
>
>
> PRO defaultarg, arg, defval, VALUEGIVEN=valuegiven
>
>   IF N_ELEMENTS( arg) EQ 0 THEN BEGIN
>     arg = defval
>     valuegiven = 0
>   ENDIF ELSE valuegiven = 1
>
> END
```

This is a pretty good idea. I can see how it would save some typing! :-)

Here is a slightly modified version. I'll add this, with documentation, to the Coyote Library later today.

```
PRO SetDefaultValue, argument, defaultValue, BOOLEAN=boolean
```

```
  ; If BOOLEAN, we need just a 0 or a 1.
  IF Keyword_Set(boolean) THEN BEGIN
```

```
    argument = Keyword_Set(argument)
```

```
  ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
```

```
    ; We only need assignment if the argument is undefined.
    IF N_Elements(argument) EQ 0 THEN BEGIN
```

```
      ; If the default value is undefined, treat as BOOLEAN.
```

```
      ; Otherwise, assign default value to the argument.
```

```
      IF N_Elements(defaultValue) EQ 0 THEN BEGIN
```

```
        argument = Keyword_Set(argument)
```

```
      ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
```

```
        argument = defaultValue
```

```
      ENDELSE
```

ENDIF

ENDELSE

END

Cheers,

David

--

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
