
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.")
