Subject: Re: Pre-processor-like Capability?
Posted by dave on Thu, 13 Jun 1996 07:00:00 GMT
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>>>> > "Bruce" == Bruce E Thomason <brucet@hsonline.net> writes:

Bruce> Does anyone know of a IDL/PV-Wave capability that is
Bruce> analogous to C's preprocessor?

Bruce> I am particularly interested in efficiently establishing
Bruce> symbolic references (in the coding process) to constant
Bruce> values for use across many routines (as #define does w/ the
Bruce> C pre-processor), but to have these values efficiently
Bruce> accessed at run-time.

I create small functions at the beginning of the source that return the
desired values:

```
FUNCTION magic_number
  return 'boing'
END

PRO whatever, x, y, z
  . . .
  IF a NE magic_number THEN BEGIN
    print, "Bad Magic"
    return, 0
  ENDIF
  . . .
END
```

This is portable, can be included in one source file, and used in
another, and is almost as simple as a #define. It's a good idea to
use a FORWARD_FUNCTION declaration to declare all such functions at
the beginning of a procedure, in case the definition is in another
file.

Performace won't suffer unless your code is highly looped, in which
case you chould probably be linking in a C for FORTRAN module anyway.

Good luck,

David.
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