
Subject: Re: screwy system variables !?

Posted by [landsman](#) on Thu, 25 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <4t714c\$lf2@senator-bedfellow.MIT.EDU>, trujillo@xnmusc.mit.edu (Chad Trujillo) writes...

```
> It seems like I can't actually create new system variables in a
> function or program and use them later in that same function/program.
> For example, I have the following program (in file tester.pro):
> pro tester
> defsysv, "!tester", 222
> print, !tester           ;this line directly refers to !tester
> end
```

```
> When I try to compile/run it, I get the following error (unless I
> manually define !tester at the command line first):
> % Not a legal system variable: !TESTER.
```

You want to have all references to !TESTER in quotes so that the compiler won't reject the system variable before the DEFSYSV call is executed. One way to do this is as follows:

```
pro tester
status = execute('defsysv, "!tester", 222')
status = execute('print, !tester')
end
```

Presumably you would want a short program that compiles the necessary system variables as the first procedure to be compiled.

--Wayne Landsman

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