
Subject: screwy system variables !? [2]

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

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

(Had some posting problems on the first one)

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.
```

Now, I change the program to

```
> pro tester
> defsysv, "!tester", 222
> help, /system_variables ;this line indirectly tells me about !tester
> end
```

And it compiles and runs fine, and output suggests that the global variable has been created: "!TESTER = 222". What the heck is going on? Is this a bug? Why can't I use a system variable I have just defined later in the same program? I'm using IDL version 4.0.1. Maybe I should give up and use a more rational language like C/C++!

-Chad

chad@galileo.ifa.hawaii.edu
<http://chipotle.ifa.hawaii.edu/~chad/>
