
Subject: Re: screwy system variables !? [2]
Posted by [peter](#) on Fri, 26 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT
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Chris Chase SRM (chase@custer.jhuapl.edu) wrote:

: >>>> "Chad" == Chad Trujillo <trujillo@xnmusc.mit.edu> writes:

: In article <4t71d3\$lhe@senator-bedfellow.MIT.EDU> trujillo@xnmusc.mit.edu (Chad Trujillo) writes:

: Chad> (Had some posting problems on the first one)

: Chad> It seems like I can't actually create new system variables in a

: Chad> function or program and use them later in that same function/program.

: Chad> 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

: Chad> When I try to compile/run it, I get the following error (unless I

: Chad> manually define !tester at the command line first):

: >> % Not a legal system variable: !TESTER.

: The problem is that IDL creates references to variables at compile

: time, but the system variable !tester does not exist at compile time.

: It will not exist until the defsysv is executed at runtime.

: You will either need to perform the defsysv in another procedure that

: runs before this one is compiled or, as suggested by someone else, use

: an execute() statement wherever you reference the !tester (effectively

: execute() delays compilation until run time).

Does anybody regularly use system variables this way? Why? Why not a regular variable in a common block?

Peter
