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Subject: Re: dealing with arguments

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 02 Jun 2010 22:50:12 GMT

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pp writes:

```
> pro name, mode, s1=s1, s2=s2
> s2=n_elements(s2) ne 0 ? s2 : 10
> ...
> end
>
> Which you could then call as
>
> name, 2, s2=100
>
> It would make s2=10 if it is not provided (or is given an undefined
> variable).
```

An alternative, which is a bit more descriptive in your programs, is SetDefaultValue:

```
pro name, mode, s1=s1, s2=s2

setdefaultvalue, s1, 5
setdefaultvalue, s2, 10
...
```

The default value is set (using pp's notation, basically) only if the variable is undefined when the program is run.

You can find the program here:

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/setdefaultvalue.pro>

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Seppure ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")

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