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Subject: Re: common block question

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 13 Apr 2011 21:17:00 GMT

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geoff writes:

- > I am writing a program which will call a number of subroutines. I
- > have a number of arrays, the largest of which (and will take a
- > significant part of the memory) will be used in most (but not all) of
- > the subroutines, will be created at the beginning and be retained
- > until the end of the program.
- >
- > Is it easiest for me to define a common block in the main program with
- > this main array and make this block available to the other sub
- > routines when necessary? Is there any overhead in making the block
- > available to all sub routines?
- >
- > I really just want to use a few global variables which are available
- > to the whole list of programs

Sounds like a legitimate use of a common block to me. Although passing the routine by reference or passing a light-weight pointer would always be my preference. It makes the code easier to understand months later, for one thing. And it allows me to run multiple instances of my program (maybe not important here).

Cheers,

David

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

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

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