Subject: Re: Happy Reasons to use IDL 8.1 Posted by pgrigis on Wed, 25 May 2011 14:32:06 GMT

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On May 25, 8:32 am, David Fanning <n...@idlcoyote.com> wrote:

- > FÖLDY Lajos writes:
- >> It is not an IDL 8.1 feature. I think it was present in IDL 1.0, too.

>

- > Yes, I'm sure it was, too. And maybe we have just
- > learned over the years to not create variables
- > named, say "bytscl", but I have a feeling there
- > are a lot more people than just me who have
- > variables named "image", and when that causes
- > your programs to not work in what appear to be
- > completely arbitrary ways (the program ran
- > 10 minutes ago!!), then I think it is going
- > to cause deep consternation (not to say
- > animosity) toward the software.

Right - this is exactly the same reason I had troubles with a function called "limits" in solarsoft that conflicted with similarly named variables.

When I teach a student to use IDL the first thing I tell them is to chose 2 or 3 letter initials to represent themselves and write *all* their programs using the naming convention xyz_*****.pro

I think it's time for ITTVIS to follow this rule by reserving a few initial letter clusters, and use that for any future new function, or finally bite the bullet and enforce array indexing with square brackets - either way we can't have any more name space pollution.

Ciao, Paolo

I'm just saying this is not the first timethese new graphics function names have

> given me a LOT of trouble. :-(

> Cheers,

> David

- >
- > David Fanning, Ph.D.
- > Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
- Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:http://www.idlcoyote.com/
 Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")