
Subject: Re: Name of arrays

Posted by [jeffnettles4870](#) on Mon, 20 Feb 2012 15:01:24 GMT

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On Feb 20, 4:46 am, Israel Rodriguez Hermelo <israelherm...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Feb 19, 5:00 pm, David Fanning <n...@idlcoyote.com> wrote:

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>> Israel Rodriguez Hermelo writes:

>>> Why did you say that's a slippery slope? Is there a better solution?

>>> I'm already using it with no problems.

>

>> I see a lot of people who are just getting started with

>> programming wanting to name their variables like this.

>> It seems cool, but in the end it just leads to unmaintainable

>> programs. A variable is a variable. The variable named "a" is

>> just as good as the variable named "b". Yes, variables should

>> have good names in programs. But just give them a name

>> (e.g., "theseMonths") in the program module where you need them.

>> Don't go looking for them all over God's creation!

>

>> 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.")

>

> Thank you for your advice David. I'll try to avoid using

> scope_varfecht then.

> My problem however is not simply that I want to have pretty names for

> my variables. The problem is that I don't know a priori the number of

> arrays that I will need nor their size.

> For example, in some cases the input data might correspond to the

> months of February and July, but in other cases might correspond to

> January, March and April.

>

```
> MONTH = [ 'FEBRUARY' , 'JULY' , 'SEPTEMBER' ]
>
> To deal with this, I was trying:
>
> Nmonths=N_ELEMENTS(MONTH)
>
> for i=0, Nmonths-1 do begin
>
>   readcol, MONTH(i)+'_data.txt', TEMPERATURE
>
>   Ndays=N_ELEMENTS(TEMPERATURE)
>
>   (scope_varfetch(MONTH(r)+'TEMPERATURE', /enter))=fltarr(Ndays)
>
> endfor
>
> I see why you wrote that scope_varfecht makes the leads to
> unmaintainable
> programs and I would prefer any other solution but I've been looking
> for it in the forum and I haven't found any. Do you have any
> suggestion?
> Thanks in advance!
>
> Regards,
>
> Israel
```

Could you just use 31 element arrays for all months and just have some empty elements at the end of some of those arrays? It depends on what you're going to do with the arrays of course, but this is the first thing i'd try!

Jeff
