
Subject: Re: procedure in case statement

Posted by [Russell Ryan](#) on Mon, 19 Nov 2012 20:13:04 GMT

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On Monday, November 19, 2012 10:57:00 AM UTC-5, hann...@web.de wrote:

> thanks a lot, paulv and DavidF. now it works.

>

> i'm sorry if my question was formulated kind of inconvenient and ineffectively - it was my first post and i will work on that.

>

> hannah

Hi Hannah,

Yeah the problem your having is that IDL will default a datatype as a float, and you're trying to assign it a float. So, you need to explicitly set the type to string before hand. When I do this, I usually do:

```
ans='proc1' ; or the default setting
read,'Which procedure do you want to run: ',ans
case ans of
'proc1':
'proc2':
endcase
```

But, this can be very dangerous for a slew of reasons. (1) what if the user misspells the procedure? (2) what if they type something that's disallowed? (which I guess is like (1)), (3) what if they capitalize? Obviously, you can see a host of problems. To guard against these things you should set default settings, have an "else" clause in your case, and check capitalization.

Good luck,
Russell
