
Subject: Re: resizing system variable

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 21 Dec 2012 05:06:23 GMT

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Craig Markwardt writes:

> Actually, I think that David would argue that system variables
> are inappropriate for use as global variables for exactly
> the same reason as common blocks. Global variables can
> pin you down in painful ways when you try to scale/enhance
> your program.
>
> [Don't tell David I mentioned this, but common blocks
> are actually more flexible than system variables because
> common block variables can be redefined - even redimensioned
> whenever you wish.]

You know I'm standing here, right?

> You've got a system that works, I would stick with it now.
>
> When designing a new system, I usually define a structure
> with all of those quantities and then pass that structure around.

I wish I knew my own mind as well as everyone else seems to know it. I'm pretty sure you could count the times I have used a common block on one hand. But, truthfully, I could say the same about defining my own system variable.

I suppose I would use them more if I could think of some good reason to do so. But, nothing seems to come to mind. ;-)

> [Actually, if I were designing my IDL library from scratch, I would start with Python. :-]

You guys really do make me smile, you know. I wish all of you a Happy Christmas and a Merry New Year!

Cheers,

David

--

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

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