
Subject: Re: Common block conundrum

Posted by [brian.jackel](#) on Tue, 04 Mar 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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In article <5ffnr\$0g@gap.cco.caltech.edu> williams@skrymir.srl.caltech.edu (Daniel Williams) writes:

> When developing programs in IDL, I often work with common blocks.
> However, if I try to change the definition of an existing common
> block, I get an error because IDL thinks that I am trying to use a
> pre-existing common block in a naughty manner. According to the
> user's manual (v3.6 p6-10) this is what IDL should do.
> However, when creating new programs, I often want to change the
> definition of the common block as the program develops. How can I do
> this, short of exiting IDL and starting over? Is there some "delvar"
> equivalent for deleting common blocks or programs from memory?

For a quick hack, define the common block as

```
COMMON MYBLOCK,var1,var2,var3,dum1,dum2,dum3,dum4,dum5
```

with a bunch of dummy assignments tacked on. Then, when you have new variables, just rename one of the dummy variables. This, combined with the use of structures, is what I do when I'm writing something new and the common block keeps changing. Not quite what you were looking for, but it usually does the trick.

Brian Jackel
