
Subject: Re: Restoring Data within a Procedure
Posted by [Marty Ryba](#) on Fri, 04 Apr 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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D.H.Brooks wrote:

- > I have a widget that I use to select IDL save/restore files and so when I pick
- > one I'm within a compound widget at a lower level than the main program. This means
- > that I get the message;
- >
- > % Identifiers can only be added or deleted at the main level: STRUCTURE.
- >
- > How would I go about getting rid of this? Can anyone help?

The key is that you cannot *add* variables within a compiled procedure. However, in IDL you can *always* change the size/type of any already-declared variable. So, if your SAVE/RESTORE files always have the same variables (which I assume is the case since you are picking one of several files for supposedly identical processing), you pre-declare the variables.

Here's a simple example:

```
FUNCTION do_restore, filename
```

```
structure = 0 ; Creates identifier for variable within  
            ; save/restore file  
restore, filename
```

```
return, structure ; return to calling function  
END
```

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Dr. Marty Ryba | Of course nothing I say here is official
MIT Lincoln Laboratory | policy, and Laboratory affiliation is
ryba@ll.mit.edu | for identification purposes only,
 | blah, blah, blah, ...
