
Subject: Re: temporary() problem

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 24 Sep 2013 20:32:54 GMT

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spluque@gmail.com writes:

> I'm not sure I understand why the variable 'a' below gets undefined after calling a procedure using temporary():

```
>
> IDL> a='a, b, c'
> IDL> help, a
> A          STRING    = 'a, b, c'
> IDL> .run "test.pro"
> % Compiled module: TEST.
> IDL> test, a
> IDL> help, a
> A          UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
>
>
> The contents of test.pro:
>
> PRO TEST, str
>   ostr=strsplit(temporary(str), ' ', /extract)
> END
>
>
> Why is temporary() messing with the top level environment?
```

Because variables are passed by reference in IDL, not by value (copied into the procedure). In this case, you are working with the variable str itself, not a copy of the variable.

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.")
