
Subject: Re: Help needed for a CASE statement, something subtle going on ...
Posted by [Phillip Bitzer](#) on Thu, 27 Feb 2014 00:08:26 GMT
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Summarizing what Craig and David have said: this all goes back to the difference in a

- 1) script (run with IDL>@case_st)
- 2) main level program (run with IDL>.run case_st)
- 3) procedure (run with IDL>case_st)

One of times I use scripts is for a "make" file for GUIs. Usually, I write procedures though. Far better programming practice.

I keep a "temp" main level program laying around to "play around" in. Usually, it's a precursor for a procedure I end up writing.

I also use main level programs as "wrappers" - usually for some sort of analysis that needs to be repeated over and over.

On Wednesday, February 26, 2014 4:57:47 PM UTC-6, David Fanning wrote:

- > But, you can't execute multiple
- >
- > line statements such as CASE statements, FOR loops, etc at the command
- >
- > line. (People will tell you differently and then offer you 1970's syntax
- >
- > to do so. Don't listen to them.)
- >
- >

Then don't listen to this :-)

If you absolutely **must** you can do this in a script. Here's the 1970's syntax (it's not pretty and **very** cumbersome)

```
CASE x OF & $
  1: print, 'one' & $
  2: print, 'two' & $
  3: print, 'three' & $
  4: print, 'four' & $
  ELSE: print, 'not one through four' & $
ENDCASE
```

Again, this should be a last resort.
