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Subject: Re: How to delete a variable

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Wed, 23 Apr 2014 17:42:16 GMT

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On Wednesday, April 23, 2014 10:30:59 AM UTC-4, Fabien wrote:

> Hi All,  
>  
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>  
> why did Wayne say that Coyote's UNDEFINE is "less elegant" than the  
>  
> PTR\_NEW() stuff? I am using undefine very often and I was just wondering  
>  
> if there's a more efficient (but general!) way to get rid of unused  
>  
> variables within a routine  
>

I was using elegant to mean "less coding", i.e. the single statement

```
Heap_Free, PTR_NEW(x , /No_Copy)
```

will free any type of IDL variable (so no need to check for the variable type), and the use of SCOPE\_VARFETCH() allows one to loop over an arbitrary number of supplied parameters without writing a special case for each one.

But I think that nearly all the CPU time in these procedures is taken up with actually freeing the memory, so I am fairly certain that that delvarx.pro is no more efficient than undefine.pro. And my original reason for the post was that some IDL V7.0 Linux users found that Heap\_Free could be extremely slow. I still don't know the cause of this problem (it is only known to occur so far on CentOS Linux with IDL 7.0), but it does suggest that the Coyote undefine.pro might be more reliable than delvarx.pro

--Wayne

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