
Subject: Re: 'secret' function

Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 17 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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John Keck (jwk@phys.columbia.edu) writes:

- > Does any one have a complete description for the use of ROUTINE_NAMES?
- > If not, does anyone know how to list system variables and structures
- > with it?

I don't know anything about ROUTINE_NAMES (expect that it is probably not a good idea to use it if it is undocumented), but to get help on system variables you can do this:

```
IDL> Help, /System_Variables
```

If you want help on a structure, you can do something like this:

```
IDL> Help, !Version, /Structure
```

- > Also, are there any other undocumented functions or procedures in IDL?

I once spent a three days using a dictionary to find all the undocumented procedures and functions that started with the letter A:

```
IDL> aardvark
IDL> aardwolf
IDL> aargu
IDL> aba
```

Etc.

I didn't find any, but whose to say they don't exist. I got half-way through running through the whole list as functions before I decided to leave the rest of the dictionary for a graduate student project. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: 'secret' function
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Tue, 18 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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John Keck wrote:

>
> I was trying to get from within a procedure a list of the system
> variables when I stumbled across the GETHELP function that uses the
> ROUTINE_NAMES function. The latter is not described in the on-line help
> or in the printed reference, so the extent of my knowledge is how the
> function is used in GETHELP.
>
> Does any one have a complete description for the use of ROUTINE_NAMES?
> If not, does anyone know how to list system variables and structures
> with it?
>
> Also, are there any other undocumented functions or procedures in IDL?
>
> Thanks,
>
> John

I am using this function and I was told by someone of RSI:

ROUTINE_NAMES is an undocumented command. It is highly recommended that you not use it in any code which you plan to run in future versions of IDL. Its argument and keyword lists may change, or it may disappear completely.

Use it at your own risk only in code which you won't mind changing again in the future.

Reimar

File Attachments

1) [R.Bauer.vcf](#), downloaded 97 times

Subject: Re: 'secret' function
Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 18 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Martin Schultz (martin.schultz@REMOVE.dkrz.de) writes:

> Just slightly more efficient than starting with aaaa ;-)

Depends on whether you are trying to avoid writing a book

or not. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: 'secret' function

Posted by [James Tappin](#) on Tue, 18 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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John Keck wrote:

>> Does any one have a complete description for the use of ROUTINE_NAMES?
> If not, does anyone know how to list system variables and structures
> with it?

The following is a list of the keywords to routine_names, most seem to be switch keywords, and in many make use of 1 or 2 arguments.

argument: list the arguments of the given routine (in the current call stack?)

comm: list the compiled routines (?) [default action?]

functions: list the compiled functions.

f_parameters: list the parameters of a function?

f_variables: list variables in a function

fetch: Select the level from which to fetch the value of a variable

Level: return the current call level

procedures: list the compiled procedures

p_parameters: list the parameters of a procedure?

p_variables: list variables in a procedure

s: Set variable

s_procedures: list intrinsic procedures

s_functions: list intrinsic functions

unresolved: list unresolved references

variables: list defined variables

--

```
+-----+-----+-----+
| James Tappin      | School of Physics & Astronomy | O__  |
| sjt@star.sr.bham.ac.uk | University of Birmingham    | -- V |
| Ph: 0121-414-6462. Fax: 0121-414-3722      |      |
```

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Subject: Re: 'secret' function
Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Tue, 18 Jan 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

>
> John Keck (jwk@phys.columbia.edu) writes:
>
>> Also, are there any other undocumented functions or procedures in IDL?
>

Just take a look at my previous post on system routines: use routine_info to get a list of all procedures and functions built into IDL. Then print out the alphabetical listing of procedures from the online help and differentiate the two. Everything not in the online help is undocumented (obviously ;-), while everything not listed by routine_info should be found in the RSI idl./lib directory.

Just slightly more efficient than starting with aaaa ;-)

Martin

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