
Subject: delvar v/s reset_session

Posted by [kashyap](#) on Mon, 23 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Puzzle: Somehow, using .RESET_SESSION in between DELVARs seems to confuse the IDL environment. Now, I believe using DELVAR inside even a main program is frowned upon (I don't know why), but this seems very bizarre.

Here's a simple test program:

```
> cat test.pro
a=1 & b=2 & c=3
print,a,b,c
delvar,a,b
end
```

and running it repeatedly, resetting the session in between, quickly starts producing garbage. Whose fault is this -- DELVAR's, .RESET_SESSION's, or mine?

```
IDL> print,!version
{ sparc sunos unix 5.3 Nov 11 1999}
IDL> .run test
% Compiled module: $MAIN$.
  1  2  3
IDL> .reset_session
IDL> .run test
% Compiled module: $MAIN$.
  1  3  3
IDL> .reset_session
IDL> .run test
% Compiled module: $MAIN$.
  3  2  3
% Internal error: Deleting variable.
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$      4 /fubar/SCAR/pro/.undone/test.pro
IDL>
```

Any idea what's going on?

Thanks,
Vinay

--

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Subject: Re: delvar v/s reset_session
Posted by [kashyap](#) on Wed, 25 Oct 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Thanks Pavel. However, I think I've narrowed the problem down to an even more bizarre phenomenon. Try these commands in sequence (not in a program, but on the command line):

```
a=1 & b=2 & print,a,b
help
delvar,a
help
.reset_session
help
a=1 & b=2 & print,a,b
help
```

Is it fair to conclude that you should not use .RESET_SESSION if you've ever used DELVAR during the session?

Here's a log of what happens in my case:-

```
IDL> print,!version
{ sparc sunos unix 5.3 Nov 11 1999}
IDL> a=1 & b=2 & print,a,b
   1   2
IDL> help
% At $MAIN$
A      INT    =    1
B      INT    =    2
Compiled Procedures:
  $MAIN$
```

Compiled Functions:

```
IDL> delvar,a
IDL> help
% At $MAIN$
B      INT    =    2
Compiled Procedures:
  $MAIN$
```

Compiled Functions:

```
IDL> .reset_session
IDL> help
% At $MAIN$
Compiled Procedures:
  $MAIN$
```

Compiled Functions:

```
IDL> a=1 & b=2 & print,a,b
```

```
% PRINT: Variable is undefined: A.
```

```
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

```
IDL> help
```

```
% At $MAIN$
```

```
A      UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
```

```
B      INT      =      2
```

```
B      INT      =      2
```

```
B      INT      =      2
```

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B      INT      =      2
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B      INT      =      2
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B      INT      =      2
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B      INT      =      2
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B      INT      =      2
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B      INT      =      2
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B      INT      =      2
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B      INT      =      2
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B      INT      =      2
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B      INT      =      2
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B      INT      =      2
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B      INT      =      2
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B      INT      =      2
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B      INT      =      2
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B      INT      =      2
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B      INT      =      2
```

```
B      INT      =      2
```

```
< Press Spacebar to continue, ? for help >
```

-Vinay

In article <39F5AEC3.699E3A3D@cmdl.noaa.gov>,

Pavel Romashkin <promashkin@cmdl.noaa.gov> wrote:

> All I can say is that the following was found in the IDL online help:

>

> The DELVAR procedure deletes variables from the main IDL program level.

> DELVAR frees any memory used by the variable and removes it from the

> main program's symbol table. The following restrictions apply:

> 1. DELVAR can only be called from the main program level.

> 2. Each time DELVAR is called, the main program is erased. Variables

> that are not deleted remain unchanged.

>

> Maybe, you should not use DELVAR in your code. If you worry about the

> size of temporary variables, you can un-define them using TEMPORARY or

> re-assign them to 0B.

> Cheers,

> Pavel

>
> "Vinay L. Kashyap" wrote:
>>
>> Puzzle: Somehow, using .RESET_SESSION in between DELVARs seems
>> to confuse the IDL environment. Now, I believe using DELVAR
>> inside even a main program is frowned upon (I don't know why),
>> but this seems very bizarre.r

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