
Subject: Re: Novice question.

Posted by [Peter Clinch](#) on Thu, 26 Oct 2000 12:22:12 GMT

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Randall Skelton wrote:

> I can set x=1.0 and y=2.0 at the command prompt but how do I then clear or
> reset the x and y variables after this? Better still, how do I do this to
> all the variables which I've defined in a program/function?

RTFM references you want are probably "delvar", ".reset_session" ;-)

Though note you can assign new values to variables without clearing them first, as in most languages. Since IDL isn't particularly rigid with types (i.e., easier to move between them, and easier to get weird errors as a result of doing it by mistake!), you can set different types on the fly, so...

```
IDL> x=1.0
IDL> help,x
X          FLOAT    =    1.00000
```

```
IDL> x=2
IDL> help,x
X          INT      =    2
```

```
IDL> delvar,x
IDL> help,x
X          UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
```

```
IDL> x='hello'
IDL> y=x
IDL> help,x,y
X          STRING   = 'hello'
Y          STRING   = 'hello'
```

```
IDL> .reset_session
IDL> help,x,y
X          UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
Y          UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
```

HTH, Pete.

--

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Subject: Re: Novice question.

Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 26 Oct 2000 12:40:02 GMT

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Randall Skelton (rhskelto@atm.ox.ac.uk) writes:

> I am fumbling around IDL 5.3 at the moment with an older version of the
> user's manual (circa 1992) but I'm having trouble locating the most basic
> of idl commands.

You might try reading (and printing, if you like) the current manuals, which are shipped with all IDL distributions. You can access all of the reference material from the on-line help:

IDL> ?

All of the IDL manuals are in the docs directory in the IDL distribution as PDF files. Of course, there are better ways to learn about IDL programming than reading the manuals. :-)

> I can set x=1.0 and y=2.0 at the command prompt but how do I then clear or
> reset the x and y variables after this?

You don't have to clear them. Just reset them to something else:

```
x = 5.0  
y = 3.0
```

> Better still, how do I do this to
> all the variables which I've defined in a program/function?

If you mean by "program/function" an IDL procedure or function, then you don't have to do this either. The variables are reset each time you run the program.

I suspect, however, that you mean "main-level program", which creates variables at the main-level. These are the variables you might see when you type HELP at the IDL prompt. These can be cleared in IDL 5.3 by typing the .RESET_SESSION executive command:

```
IDL> .RESET_SESSION
```

> At the moment
> I just quit and restart but that seems rather silly...

Silly, but a time-worn pattern for many of us prior

to IDL 5.3. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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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: Novice question.

Posted by [promashkin](#) on Thu, 26 Oct 2000 22:03:23 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

>

> Silly, but a time-worn pattern for many of us prior

> to IDL 5.3. :-)

I must admit that in 5.3 I am still using it to *make sure* everything
did really get reset :-(.Reset_* is still not quite doing it
completely. Hopefully, 5.4 has its implemented better.

Cheers,

Pavel
