
Subject: Re: COMMON block question
Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 30 Jan 2001 18:18:19 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Paul van Delst (pvandelst@ncep.noaa.gov) writes:

> Thanks for any insights. All metphysical replies forwarded to DF. :o)

My middle son had to interview me this week for a history project he is doing in school. One of the questions was "What is your definition of 'history'?"

I replied that after reading Julian Barbour's book *The End of Time* and Ken Wilber's book *A Brief History of Everything* that my view of history had changed. I now believe there is no such thing as time. That all we know is the eternal present. That because of the way our consciousness is wired that what appears to us to be "history" is simply an illusion and convenient explanation for how we happen to be *here*. Sort of a variation on the parallel universe theory.

Guess it caused quite a stir yesterday when Jonathan laid it all out for them at the Junior High School. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: COMMON block question
Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Tue, 30 Jan 2001 20:57:17 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

As far as I know (from trying), a program module that has access to a common block just takes whatever item happens to be at that location and tries to use it. It is not aware of the type or size of that variable. All that matters is that the user knows what each program is supposed to get from the common block and makes sure programs access variables in

common blocks in the right order. In other words, something like the following does not work well:

```
pro one
common temp, a, b
a = 'this is a string'
b = 2.5
end
```

```
pro two
common temp, b
print, b*5
end
```

Cheers,
Pavel
