
Subject: Re: Correct format of "included" files (using "at" sign)

Posted by [kspencer](#) on Tue, 01 Mar 1994 19:30:46 GMT

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steele@wesson.phys.ucalgary.ca (Dave Steele) writes:

> I'm trying to use the "at" sign (the \$%^&*! 'xrn' editor won't let
> me type it!) to substitute some code into IDL. The procedure is
> tersely described on p. 2-7 of the User's Guide for v3.1. I'm
> getting a problem that I think has to do with the format of the
> code I'm including. It is an IF_THEN_ELSE block with no header
> line (like PRO ... or FUNCTION ...) and no trailer lines (like
> RETURN, END, EXIT). If I run the routine that invokes the code
> substitution, I get syntax errors in the first lines following the
> invocation. If I add a line saying 'END' to the substituted code,
> I get dropped back to the IDL> prompt at the end of the substituted
> code.

[deleted]

> Dave

> --

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> OPINIONS EXPRESSED WITHIN ARE MY OWN AND NOT THOSE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
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Dave,

Yes, it's frustrating that they don't document the differences in syntax
between compiled routines and the "script" files. As far as I know, you
have to keep statements to one line, and can't use block statements. IDL
just treats the commands as if they were issued in interactive mode.

Kevin

Kevin Spencer

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Subject: Re: Correct format of "included" files (using "at" sign)

Posted by [paul](#) on Wed, 02 Mar 1994 01:26:04 GMT

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In article <Mar1.191234.31054@acs.ucalgary.ca>, steele@wesson.phys.ucalgary.ca (Dave Steele) writes:

```
|> I'm trying to use the "at" sign (the $%^&*! 'xrn' editor won't let
|> me type it!) to substitute some code into IDL. The procedure is
|> tersely described on p. 2-7 of the User's Guide for v3.1. I'm
|> getting a problem that I think has to do with the format of the
|> code I'm including. It is an IF_THEN_ELSE block with no header
|> line (like PRO ... or FUNCTION ...) and no trailer lines (like
|> RETURN, END, EXIT). If I run the routine that invokes the code
|> substitution, I get syntax errors in the first lines following the
|> invocation. If I add a line saying 'END' to the substituted code,
|> I get dropped back to the IDL> prompt at the end of the substituted
|> code.
```

...text deleted

The IDL interpreter treats input from a file using the at sign command just as if the contents of the file were typed in at the prompt. This results in different behavior than if the file were compiled with the .run command. In particular multi-line compound statements that contain BEGIN and END statements are not recognized unless you tell the interpreter that a given command line is not complete. Here is how to do it...

```
j=0
k=0
for i=0,10 do begin      &$
  if i le 2 then begin  &$
    j=j+1               &$
    k=k+2               &$
  endif else begin     &$
    j=j-1               &$
    k=k-2               &$
  endelse              &$
  print,i,j,k          &$
endfor
```

If you leave out the &\$ the interpreter gets confused because each line of input is not an independently executable statement.

Paul Ricchiazzi Internet: paul@esrg.ucsb.edu
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Subject: Re: Correct format of "included" files (using "at" sign)

Posted by [Jackel](#) on Wed, 02 Mar 1994 02:11:12 GMT

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In article <Mar1.191234.31054@acs.ucalgary.ca> steele@wesson.phys.ucalgary.ca (Dave Steele) writes:

> From: steele@wesson.phys.ucalgary.ca (Dave Steele)
> Subject: Correct format of "included" files (using "at" sign)
> Date: Tue, 1 Mar 1994 19:12:34 GMT
> Keywords: IDL, "at" sign, substituted code

> I'm trying to use the "at" sign (the \$%^&*! 'xrn' editor won't let

...Text deleted

> --

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> OPINIONS EXPRESSED WITHIN ARE MY OWN AND NOT THOSE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Could you be more specific about what you're trying? On the PC I can make a program TEST.PRO as follows:

pro TEST

```
print,'This program tests include blocks'  
@c:\idl\test.1  
print,'The end'
```

end

where the file c:\idl\test.1 is just:

```
-----  
FOR i=0,10 DO BEGIN  
  print,i  
ENDFOR  
-----
```

and it works fine. The only way I can create problems is to put a space before the @ sign, and then it just won't compile. Is the above code basically what you want to do, or have I misunderstood?

Subject: Re: Correct format of "included" files (using "at" sign)

Posted by [sterner](#) on Wed, 02 Mar 1994 15:02:04 GMT

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kspencer@iti.org (Kevin Spencer) writes:

> Yes, it's frustrating that they don't document the differences in syntax
> between compiled routines and the "script" files. As far as I know, you
> have to keep statements to one line, and can't use block statements. IDL
> just treats the commands as if they were issued in interactive mode.

Think of the @ symbol as meaning "include the contents of the specified file at this point" where that text must be appropriate for the current IDL mode. If you are in interactive mode the @ file is called a batch file and must have the same syntax as you would type in that mode. If you are in compile mode the file is called an include file and the text may have the syntax used in routines.

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