
Subject: nested subroutines and scope

Posted by [Christopher W. O'Dell](#) on Thu, 24 Jan 2002 22:56:30 GMT

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This is a two-part question from an IDL newbie.

- 1) Is it possible to nest procedures or functions in IDL?
- 2) If the answer to (1) is yes, is there anyway to give certain variables global scope within the primary procedure/function, so they can be "seen" by all the nested procedures/functions within the main function?

I used to do this all the time in pascal. Some pseudo-code might be as follows:

```
function mainfunc, x, a1

  function subfunc, y
    return, a1 * y^2
  end ; subfunc

return, subfunc(x) * subfunc(x^2)

end ; mainfunc
```

If you think this is terrible programming practice (which it probably is), can anyone suggest a better way, without having to pass all the global variables as parameters?

Thanks,
Chris O'Dell

Subject: Re: nested subroutines and scope

Posted by [Alex Schuster](#) on Tue, 29 Jan 2002 13:46:34 GMT

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Chris O'Dell wrote:

> 1) Is it possible to nest procedures or functions in IDL?

No.

> If you think this is terrible programming practice (which it probably
> is), can anyone suggest a better way, without having to pass
> all the global variables as parameters?

Oh, I always liked pascal's ability to nest procedures and functions.

For IDL, if there are many parameters, I would put them together into a structure, so you need only pass this single variable then.

Alex

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