
Subject: Re: RFC 1: Common functions for beginners
Posted by [Pavel Romashkin](#) on Wed, 14 May 2003 23:10:20 GMT
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First 17 positions - WHERE.

18: <, >

19: Rebin

20: Histogram

Cheers,
Pavel

Ed Wright wrote:

>

> I'd like your suggestions for the twenty or so most common

> IDL functions a new user should understand.

Subject: Re: RFC 1: Common functions for beginners
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 14 May 2003 23:23:15 GMT
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Ed Wright (ed.wright@jpl.nasa.gov) writes:

> I have a request for comments (just like the IETF).

>

> I learned the basics of IDL use and programming over a long time interval
> while writing the magnum opus of dlms. Rather than have new users repeat my
> learning process, I'd like your suggestions for the twenty or so most common
> IDL functions a new user should understand.

>

> I mean most basic-most used. Open file, read numbers, plot numbers, write
> text, close file.

OK, I'll get us started. The first thing a new user
of IDL should know is DEVICE, DECOMPOSED=0. I taught
an IDL class recently to a group of users who had
been using IDL almost 6 months before I got there.
They didn't know IDL could draw anything except red
lines on a black background. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
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Subject: Re: RFC 1: Common functions for beginners
Posted by [Karsten Rodenacker](#) on Thu, 15 May 2003 09:24:43 GMT
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Maybe on 1 retail is better recommended
Regards
Karsten

Pavel Romashkin schrieb:
> First 17 positions - WHERE.
> 18: <, >
> 19: Rebin
> 20: Histogram
>
> Cheers,
> Pavel
>
> Ed Wright wrote:
>
>> I'd like your suggestions for the twenty or so most common
>> IDL functions a new user should understand.
>

--

Karsten Rodenacker

-----:~)

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Subject: Re: RFC 1: Common functions for beginners
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Thu, 15 May 2003 10:32:26 GMT
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Ed Wright wrote:
> To: IDL guri
> From: Ed Wright
>
> I have a request for comments (just like the IETF).
>

> I learned the basics of IDL use and programming over a long time interval
> while writing the magnum opus of dlms. Rather than have new users repeat my
> learning process, I'd like your suggestions for the twenty or so most common
> IDL functions a new user should understand.
>
> I mean most basic-most used. Open file, read numbers, plot numbers, write
> text, close file.
>
> As always,
> Ed Wright
>

in addition to the other repliers
print,expand_path(!path) & help,!version,/str

index operations e.g.

```
x=findgen(10)*!pi  
print,x[0:9:2]  
x[*]=5.
```

the miracle of
n_elements() (obsolete, new call is SIZE(x,/n_elements)),
n_params()
arg_present()
keyword_set()
and how to use them

regards

Reimar

--

Reimar Bauer

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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich
http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html
=====

Subject: Re: RFC 1: Common functions for beginners
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 15 May 2003 12:47:41 GMT
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Reimar Bauer (R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de) writes:

- > the miracle of
- > n_elements() (obsolete, new call is SIZE(x,/n_elements)),
- > n_params()
- > arg_present()
- > keyword_set()
- > and how to use them

Now we are getting into the esoteric. Millions of IDL programmers write successful programs (well, successful enough, apparently) without having the foggiest notion of how to use KEYWORD_SET and N_ELEMENTS properly. Learning about these functions can be put off until (1) You have lost your job because the critical-it-don't-fail program failed, or (2) You are desperate to get the IDL Expert Programmer badge from the IEPA.

Cheers,

David

--

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