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> the answer to my question is negative?

No, it means the answer to your question is complicated. :-)

It is true that you can't pass command line arguments to IDL save files. (There is no, uh, command line.) But that is not to say you can't write procedures with arguments and save them as save files. It's just that those arguments can't be there when the file is run. If you need the arguments, you have to work out how to get them. In other words, you have to treat them as optional arguments.

One option is to open a dialog and allow the user to enter the arguments. Another option is to read the arguments out of a data file (which some people create with a shell script so that their program *appears* to accept command line arguments).

Rob Dimeo brought a nifty little program to my attention this week that was written by Jim Pendleton, an RSI programmer who writes awfully clever IDL code, that may help with the latter. The program is named SOURCEROOT. It allows you to store data files in the same directory as your pro files, and then distribute the files

to any location. The SOURCEROOT program figures out which directory the pro files are being run from, so it can locate the data files without having to know ahead of time where they are. Neat. It works like this:

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file = filepath('data.dat',root = sourceroot())
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You can find the program here:

<http://www.rsinc.com/codebank/search.asp?FID=35>

There are probably other solutions as well. But you have to be pretty creative to discover some of them. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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

Subject: Re: SAV file generation with command line arguments
Posted by [justspam03](#) on Wed, 19 Nov 2003 10:05:24 GMT
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Another possibility, which might be an option for batch processing, is to use environment variables.
a la

```
exe='/x/y/z/idlrt.exe studyeval.sav'  
export study="study1"  
eval $exe  
export study="study2"  
eval $exe  
...
```

and in studyeval.pro

```
; setenv, 'study=study1' ; for testing
```

```
study = getenv('study')
```

For user interaction this approach might be a bit cumbersome, though.

Cheers

Oliver

David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> wrote in message
news:<MPG.1a24aa6a6984db23989744@news.frii.com>...

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Subject: Re: SAV file generation with command line arguments
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Wed, 19 Nov 2003 19:39:49 GMT
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This was already dicussed in the past.

[http://groups.google.de/groups?hl=de&lr=&ie=UTF-8&am
p;threadm=MPG.170c1e57a441bec4989856%40news.frii.com&rnu
m=6&prev=/groups%3Fq%3Dparameter%2Bgroup:comp.lang.idl-p
vwave%26hl%3Dde%26lr%3D%26ie%3DUTF-8%26group%3Dcomp.lang.idl
-pvwave%26selm%3DMPG.170c1e57a441bec4989856%2540news.frii.co m%26rnum%3D6](http://groups.google.de/groups?hl=de&lr=&ie=UTF-8&am
p;threadm=MPG.170c1e57a441bec4989856%40news.frii.com&rnu
m=6&prev=/groups%3Fq%3Dparameter%2Bgroup:comp.lang.idl-p
vwave%26hl%3Dde%26lr%3D%26ie%3DUTF-8%26group%3Dcomp.lang.idl
-pvwave%26selm%3DMPG.170c1e57a441bec4989856%2540news.frii.co m%26rnum%3D6)

regards
Reimar

--
Forschungszentrum Juelich
email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de
<http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/>

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

Subject: Re: SAV file generation with command line arguments
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Wed, 19 Nov 2003 22:16:05 GMT
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On Tue, 18 Nov 2003 22:15:39 -0700, David Fanning wrote:

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I was amused to see sourceroot finds out the name of the current routine by parsing the output of help,calls=c, which is apparently fair game, unlike help,OUTPUT. I might give that little method a try.

JD

Subject: Re: SAV file generation with command line arguments
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Thu, 20 Nov 2003 01:37:50 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

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> Cheers,
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> David
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>
>
>

This is an old trick,

I have seen this first by Ray Sterner /JHUAPL

whocalledme, dir, file

regards
Reimar

--

Forschungszentrum Juelich
email: R.Bauer@fz-juelich.de
<http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/>

=====

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