
Subject: Ellipsis in IDL?

Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Wed, 21 Jul 2004 22:58:28 GMT

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How do you define a procedure to take N number of arguments when you don't know what N is before the procedure call? For those of you who have worked with C, what I'm after is something similar to the ellipsis (...) which allows N many arguments to be specified for functions such as printf.

In IDL, the print command is obvious example of what I'm trying to do. The signature of print is:

```
print [, Expr1, Expr2, ... , ExprN]
```

So, how can I write a procedure to take N many arguments?

-Mike

Subject: Re: Ellipsis in IDL?

Posted by [Evan Fishbein](#) on Fri, 30 Jul 2004 01:49:15 GMT

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About 1/2 year ago I asked RSI to include this capability. If enough people ask, I am sure they will comply. As for the suggestion about putting a list of arguments into a ptr array and using a case statement to process the argument list I once wrote program that wrote a program to put an argument list with up to 1024 arguments into a ptr array. It is attached.

Michael Wallace wrote:

> How do you define a procedure to take N number of arguments when you
> don't know what N is before the procedure call? For those of you who
> have worked with C, what I'm after is something similar to the ellipsis
> (...) which allows N many arguments to be specified for functions such
> as printf.

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> So, how can I write a procedure to take N many arguments?

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> -Mike

File Attachments

1) var_arg.pro.gz, downloaded 104 times

Subject: Re: Ellipsis in IDL?

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Fri, 30 Jul 2004 03:23:39 GMT

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Evan Fishbein <Evan.Fishbein@jpl.nasa.gov> writes:

> This is a multi-part message in MIME format.
> -----000809020709000301000907
> Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; format=flowed
> Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
>
> About 1/2 year ago I asked RSI to include this capability. If enough
> people ask, I am sure they will comply. As for the suggestion about
> putting a list of arguments into a ptr array and using a case statement
> to process the argument list I once wrote program that wrote a
> program to put an argument list with up to 1024 arguments into a ptr
> array. It is attached.

Fascinating. I thought that the number of positional parameters was limited to 64. That limit must have been lifted?

Craig

Subject: Re: Ellipsis in IDL?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 30 Jul 2004 04:45:00 GMT

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Craig Markwardt writes:

> Fascinating. I thought that the number of positional parameters was
> limited to 64. That limit must have been lifted?

Don't ask me. The largest number of positional parameters I've ever used is three. More than that, and my memory gets cloudy. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Subject: Re: Ellipsis in IDL?

Posted by [Evan Fishbein](#) on Sat, 31 Jul 2004 00:25:09 GMT

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I don't think I have used it with more than 30 arguments, but when you write code to write code there is not limit to the size of the code that can be written. I was curious if you could actually pass 1024 arguments to a routine without an exception or buffer overflow and you can. By the way, I use this routine as part of some general routines that create hdf files and excel spreadsheets which an undetermined at compilation numbers of columns.

David Fanning wrote:

> Craig Markwardt writes:

>

>

>> Fascinating. I thought that the number of positional parameters was
>> limited to 64. That limit must have been lifted?

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> Don't ask me. The largest number of positional parameters I've ever
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> Cheers,

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> David
