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Subject: Re: delete variable name from memory

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 12:25:46 GMT

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saplizki@gmail.com wrote:

- > I need to delete my variable from the variable name list.
- > but i don't locate at the top level (i'm in a gui program) so i can't
- > 'delvar' it.
- > also i can't (don't want to) zero it because it won't remove from the
- > variable list (when i press help or use ROUTINE\_NAMES or ROUTINE\_INFO)
- > and i use that list at my program.

Try UNDEFINE:

<http://www.dfanning.com/programs/undefine.pro>

Cheers,

David

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Subject: Re: delete variable name from memory

Posted by [Antonio Santiago](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 16:30:39 GMT

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saplizki@gmail.com wrote:

- > I need to delete my variable from the variable name list.
- > but i don't locate at the top level (i'm in a gui program) so i can't
- > 'delvar' it.
- > also i can't (don't want to) zero it because it won't remove from the
- > variable list (when i press help or use ROUTINE\_NAMES or ROUTINE\_INFO)
- > and i use that list at my program.
- >

Another way to undefine a variable different from David's solution is with pointers:

```
IDL> .reset
```

```
IDL> a=10
```

```
IDL> help
```

```
% At $MAIN$
```

```
A      INT      =      10
```

```
Compiled Procedures:
```

```
  $MAIN$
```

Compiled Functions:

```
IDL> PTR_FREE, PTR_NEW(a, /NO_COPY)
IDL> help
% At $MAIN$
A      UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
Compiled Procedures:
    $MAIN$
```

Compiled Functions:

IDL> ...

The important thing is PTR\_NEW(a, /NO\_COPY) creates a copy of 'a' into the HEAP memory and undefines 'a' (with NO\_COPY keyword) and returns a pointer variable that "points" to the HEAP memory. Then we free this pointer variable.

Also, I suppose (better I'm sure) David's solution is much more good than this because he use the TEMPORARY function that is designed for a similar use that you need.

Bye.

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Antonio Santiago Piñeres  
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Subject: Re: delete variable name from memory  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Thu, 02 Jun 2005 17:21:22 GMT  
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On Thu, 02 Jun 2005 14:25:46 +0200, David Fanning wrote:

```
> saplizki@gmail.com wrote:
>
>> I need to delete my variable from the variable name list.
>> but i don't locate at the top level (i'm in a gui program) so i can't
>> 'delvar' it.
>> also i can't (don't want to) zero it because it won't remove from the
>> variable list (when i press help or use ROUTINE_NAMES or ROUTINE_INFO)
```

```
>> and i use that list at my program.  
>  
> Try UNDEFINE:  
>  
> http://www.dfanning.com/programs/undefine.pro
```

Note that there is a difference between a deleted variable and an undefined variable:

```
IDL> a=12
```

```
IDL> help  
% At $MAIN$  
A          INT      =      12
```

```
IDL> delvar,a
```

```
IDL> help  
% At $MAIN$
```

```
IDL> a=12
```

```
IDL> undefine,a  
% Compiled module: UNDEFINE.
```

```
IDL> help  
% At $MAIN$  
A          UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
```

```
IDL> print,routine_info('$MAIN$',/VARIABLES)  
A
```

I.e. the TEMPORARY tricks leave a reference to the variable as UNDEFINED, whereas DELVAR removes any notion of ever having seen such a variable. They are equivalent if you are using, e.g., N\_ELEMENTS() eq 0 as a test for a variable's presence, since whether a variable is non-existent, or exists but is undefined, N\_ELEMENTS is 0. An undefined variable, however, is still a variable, and will show up in ROUTINE\_INFO, among other places.

JD

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Subject: Re: delete variable name from memory  
Posted by [saplizki](#) on Sun, 05 Jun 2005 11:30:02 GMT  
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but i do need to removes any notion of ever having seen such a variable.  
And David's solutions and Antonio's solutions doesn't do it, so how can i really remove it.

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