
Subject: Help needed on calling an IDL procedure from the Linux command line
Posted by [Sanjay\[1\]](#) on Wed, 24 Aug 2005 20:59:29 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hello all,

I have a question regarding calling IDL from a Linux command line. By testing this out directly, I know that an IDL code can indeed be called from the command line, e.g.:

```
$ idl test.pro
```

However, my limited experience indicates that this is not entirely successful if "test" is a procedure, i.e. if it starts with the line:

```
PRO test, input
```

In this case I get the following error: "Programs can't be compiled from a single statement mode". However, it seems not to matter too much (at least for my purposes), since IDL keeps going onto the next line anyway. But I don't know how to send the necessary variable "input" in this case.

So I was wondering: is it possible to pass input variables via a command line call? Can these be provided directly, or via an input file? I contacted David Fanning, and he suggested that this group would be a good source of information on this topic. Any help or information that you have on this would be greatly appreciated.

Take care,
Sanjay

Subject: Re: Help needed on calling an IDL procedure from the Linux command line
Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Sat, 27 Aug 2005 23:25:03 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

> So I was wondering: is it possible to pass input variables via a
> command line call? Can these be provided directly, or via an input
> file? I contacted David Fanning, and he suggested that this group would
> be a good source of information on this topic. Any help or information
> that you have on this would be greatly appreciated.

The new IDL 6.2 includes support for command line arguments. You can specify command line arguments with either the -arg or -args options. For example:

```
$ idl test.pro -quiet -args arg1 arg2 arg3
```

Notice that the file test.pro must be a batch file rather than a procedure or function. If it's not a batch file, you will get the error message about programs not being able to be compiled in single statement mode. Here are the contents of a very simple test.pro:

```
args = command_line_args()
print, n_elements(args)
print, args
```

And here's what I get when running it:

```
$ idl test.pro -quiet -args arg1 arg2 arg3
      3
arg1 arg2 arg3
```

Typically, I will keep the batch file pretty small and use it only parse the command line arguments. I then call the procedure or function that does the real work. I split things up this so that I can call my core code either from the command line or from another routine. My batch programs usually look something like:

```
args = command_line_args()
; check args and set input and keyword values
really_nifty_idl_code(input1, input2, keyword = keyword1)
```

-Mike

Subject: Re: Help needed on calling an IDL procedure from the Linux command line
Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Mon, 29 Aug 2005 13:08:43 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

In article <11h1titocqh6p98@corp.supernews.com>,
Michael Wallace <mwallace.nospam@swri.edu.invalid> wrote:

```
>> So I was wondering: is it possible to pass input variables via a
>> command line call? Can these be provided directly, or via an input
>> file? I contacted David Fanning, and he suggested that this group would
>> be a good source of information on this topic. Any help or information
>> that you have on this would be greatly appreciated.
```

```
>
```

```
>
```

```
> The new IDL 6.2 includes support for command line arguments.
```

Now **there** is something useful in 6.2 :-)

Ken Bowman
