Subject: Re: procedure name quirk
Posted by David Fanning on Tue, 13 Jun 2006 00:33:15 GMT
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Martin Rother writes:

> as I had just failed to keep myself in lurking mode,
> I want to come with a funny question (seems to
> be difficult to search for by google):
>
> it is possible to write a procedure named '!'.

Sigh... I'm really getting much too old. :-(

Cheers,

David

--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/

Subject: Re: procedure name quirk
Posted by greg michael on Tue, 13 Jun 2006 08:59:33 GMT
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ha! I like that.

Greg

Subject: Re: procedure name quirk
Posted by Foldy Lajos on Tue, 13 Jun 2006 09:44:38 GMT
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Hi,

it's all about identifiers. Variable names, function/procedure names,
structure names are identifiers.

In theory, the IDL 6.3 manual says:

Each identifier must begin with a letter and can contain from 1 to 128
characters. The second and subsequent characters can be letters, digits,
the underscore character, or the dollar sign.

In practice, _ (for _extra) and ! (for system variables) are also permitted as leading character. (The manual even lists _INIT as unacceptable variable name, but IDL happily accepts it :-)

A quick check shows that other characters are not accepted:

```
for i=32b,127b do $
   if ( idl_validname(string(i)) ne '' ) then $
      print, string(i)
```

prints only _, ! and letters.

The 8-bit version of this test is left to the reader :-)
just an example:

```
IDL> Ö=1        ; character 214
IDL> help
% At $MAIN$
V           INT     =      1
```

Ö is converted to char 86 (ie highest bit masked).

regards,
lajos

On Tue, 13 Jun 2006, Martin Rother wrote:

>   it is possible to write a procedure named '!'.

Subject: Re: procedure name quirk
Posted by rother on Tue, 13 Jun 2006 14:00:21 GMT
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Hi,

On Jun13 11:44, F?LDY Lajos wrote:
> A quick check shows that other characters are not accepted:
> for i=32b,127b do $
>   if (idl_validname(string(i)) ne '') then $
>   print, string(i)
> prints only _, ! and letters.

    ah, instructive...
    so with
    (in file !.pro):

PRO !,_&print,_&END & FUNCTION _,_&return,!$+_&END
    I can do
(X). .r !
(X). defsysv,'!$','!'
(X). _='!'&!,_(_)
!!
(X).
    (but, of course, I shouldn't :-)
    thanks,
    martin.
--
Martin Rother (rother@gfz-potsdam.de)   +331 / 288-1272   Section 2.3
                    GeoForschungsZentrum Potsdam, Germany

Subject: Re: procedure name quirk
Posted by David Fanning on Tue, 13 Jun 2006 15:03:30 GMT
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Martin Rother writes:

>   ah, instructive...
>   so with
>   (in file !.pro):
> PRO !,_&print,_&END & FUNCTION _,_&return,!$+_&END
>   I can do
> (X). .r !
> (X). defsysv,'!$','!'
> (X). _='!'&!,_(_)
> !!
> (X).
>   (but, of course, I shouldn't :-)

NOW, I remember you! Fourth grade, Mr. Holland's class, right?
After he suffered his nervous breakdown and you had to move
away, I always wondered what had happened to you! Good to
see you again!

Cheers,

David

--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
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