

---

Subject: Re: Syntax Error Confusion

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 24 Aug 2007 18:16:55 GMT

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

---

Ryan. writes:

```
> Here is my snippet of code: (The only thing before this is some
> declaration of variables)
>
> IF getdata THEN      $
>   snrarray = getsnrarray(wnrange, occlist, DATESARR=time, $
>   /JULIAN,      $
>   OCCS2RM=occs2rm, WAVENUMS=wavenums) && $
>
>   occ1snr = REFORM(snrarray[0,*])  && $
>   occ2snr = REFORM(snrarray[1,*])
```

Your problem is this is NOT the way to write a BEGIN-END block of code. In fact, you are forgetting the BEGIN and the END :-)

Are you SURE you want to be doing this in a batch file!? Maybe there is an easier way. May I suggest a main-level program. Then you don't have to jump through all these && \$ hoops to get something done.

Cheers,

David

P.S. A main-level program is just like a batch file, except it has an END at the end of it, and you compile it before you run it. But all the variables are available to you at the main IDL level, where it runs.

```
IDL> .run myprogram
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

---

---

Subject: Re: Syntax Error Confusion

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Sat, 25 Aug 2007 03:16:13 GMT

David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> writes:

```
> Ryan. writes:
>
>> Here is my snippet of code: (The only thing before this is some
>> declaration of variables)
>>
>> IF getdata THEN      $
>>   snrarray = getsnrarray(wnrange, occlist, DATESARR=time, $
>>   /JULIAN,    $
>>   OCCS2RM=occs2rm, WAVENUMS=wavenums) && $
>>
>>   occ1snr = REFORM(snrarray[0,*])  && $
>>   occ2snr = REFORM(snrarray[1,*])
>
> Your problem is this is NOT the way to write a BEGIN-END
> block of code. In fact, you are forgetting the BEGIN and the END :-)
```

...

```
> program. Then you don't have to jump through all these
> && $ hoops to get something done.
```

I have a colleague who has never written a single IDL procedure or .run'able script. He has huge snippets which he pastes directly into the IDL window. They are all strung together with hundreds of &'s and \$'s. It is truly bizarre and unmaintainable.

However, at some point my indignation stagnated into apathy. Sigh..

Craig

--

-----  
Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu  
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response  
-----

---

Subject: Re: Syntax Error Confusion  
Posted by [rchughes](#) on Mon, 27 Aug 2007 13:18:46 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

```
> Maybe there is an easier way. May I suggest a main-level
> program. Then you don't have to jump through all these
> && $ hoops to get something done.
```

Thanks David!

That has made my life a whole lot easier. I've tried it and it works beautifully. Up to now I have tried to avoid creating batch files that required more than 2 or 3 lines in a loop or conditional statement and throwing them into a procedure with several keywords to return (not pleasant, by the way) so a main-level program is just what I needed without knowing I needed it.

Ryan.

P.S. I tried posting twice on Friday but it didn't go through, so this is another attempt.

---