
Subject: Re: another IDL oddity

Posted by [Foldy Lajos](#) on Tue, 17 Feb 2009 16:06:10 GMT

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On Tue, 17 Feb 2009, Bringfried Stecklum wrote:

```
> Folks, here is another one I recently stumbled upon. How about that
>
> more ~/IDL/my_procedure.pro
> pro my_procedure,arg
> print,arg
> end
>
> within IDL
> IDL> my_procedure,'Hello.world'
> % Compiled module: MY_PROCEDURE.
> Hello.world
> IDL> exit
>
> from bash
>> echo my_procedure,'Hello.world'|idl
> IDL Version 6.4 (linux x86_64 m64). (c) 2007, ITT Visual Information
> Solutions
> Installation number: 12207.
> Licensed for use by: TLS Tautenburg
>
> % Compiled module: LOADCT.
> % Compiled module: FILEPATH.
> % Compiled module: PATH_SEP.
> % Expression must be a structure in this context: HELLO.
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
>
```

echo "my_procedure,'Hello.world'"|idl works.

regards,
lajos

Subject: Re: another IDL oddity

Posted by [Carsten Lechte](#) on Tue, 17 Feb 2009 16:12:35 GMT

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Bringfried Stecklum wrote:

```
> from bash
>> echo my_procedure,'Hello.world'|idl
```

bash is eating the quotation marks, so IDL only sees the naked Hello.world which generates an error if a variable named hello is undefined or not a structure.

```
echo my_procedure,\"Hello.world\"|idl
```

should work.

> Any hints?

IDL seems to check parameters for procedure calls before compiling the procedure. An undefined parameter is treated as a named variable and simply handed on to the procedure, while the attempt to access an undefined variable's structural tags throws an error immediately, since there is no result that can be passed to the procedure.

Was that your question?

chl
