
Subject: Re: IDL 8.0.1 ARG_PRESENT question
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Sun, 21 Nov 2010 18:15:11 GMT
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On 11/21/10 10:15 AM, David Groff wrote:

> I call a method named assign like so:

>

> osrf->Assign, isrf[n], Debug=Debug

>

>

> In the assign method I see the following:

>

>

>

> PRO OSRF::Assign, \$

> new, \$; Output

> Debug=Debug ; Input keyword

>

> ; Set up

> ; ...OSRF parameters

> @osrf_parameters

> ; ...Set up error handler

> @osrf_pro_err_handler

>

> ; ...ALL *input* pointers must be associated

> IF (self->Associated(Debug=Debug) EQ FALSE) THEN \$

> MESSAGE, 'Some or all input OSRF pointer members are NOT associated.', \$

> NONAME=MsgSwitch, NOPRINT=MsgSwitch

>

> ; ...Return argument must be present

> IF (NOT ARG_PRESENT(new)) THEN \$

> MESSAGE, 'No output object argument specified.', \$

> NONAME=MsgSwitch, NOPRINT=MsgSwitch

>

>

>

> When I call the assign method as shown above I see the following error

> message:

>

> % WRITE_VIIRS_SRF: OSRF::LOAD_VIIRS: OSRF::ASSIGN: No output object
> argument specified.

> % Execution halted at: WRITE_VIIRS_SRF 10

> /usr2/trunk_new/scripts/idl/oSRF/lib/osrf_pro_err_handler.pr o

> % \$MAIN\$

>

>

> Adding a STOP just before the line where I see " IF (NOT

> ARG_PRESENT(new)) " in the assign method, I get the following from

```
> the idl prompt:
>
>
> IDL> help, new
> NEW OBJREF = <ObjHeapVar2770(OSRF)>
>
>
>
> Why does ARG_PRESENT(new) evaluate to FALSE?
>
> Thanks for any help in advance.
```

Because you didn't pass a named variable as the input parameter in your call:

```
osrf->Assign, isrf[n], Debug=Debug
```

The expression `isrf[n]` is passed by value, so it cannot be changed from within a called routine. (ARG_PRESENT tests whether a routine can pass a value back to the calling routine.) Your call needs to look something like:

```
; only needed if you are passing a value in, as well as out
isrfn = isrf[n]
```

```
; make the call with a named variable
osrf->Assign, isrfn, Debug=Debug
```

```
; put the temporary named variable's value where you want it
isrf[n] = isrfn
```

Mike

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