
Subject: IDL Limits

Posted by [mallozzi](#) on Tue, 25 Jul 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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Reading some recent posts about IDL limits, here is a list off the top of my head. Please post any additions or corrections.

IDL limits:

local variables	<236 (?)
common block variables	<64
pro/function parameters	<64
CALL_EXTERNAL parameters	<64
structure tags	<126 (?)
variables (v3.5.1 & earlier)	<16 characters
pro/func names	(?)

-Bob

mallozzi@ssl.msfc.nasa.gov

Subject: Re: IDL limits

Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 03 Aug 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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Dick French writes in response to Bob Mallozzi:

> Robert - One limit that I have run up against and can't find
> documentation for relates to KEYWORD names. I tried to define
> keywords XMIN_ABSOLUTE and XMIN_RELATIVE, say, and got
> an error message about ambiguous keyword definitions. Can someone point
> me to the documentation on unique keyword recognition? I have gotten
> around this by using different names, but it would be nice to
> know the rules of the game!

Dick, your description of the problem seems highly unlikely.
If you had defined a procedure with these two keywords, like
this:

```
PRO JUNK, XMIN_Absolute=absolute, XMIN_Relative=relative
```

there would be absolutely (pun intended) no problem. Where
you MIGHT run into a problem is if you called the procedure
like this:

```
JUNK, XMIN=5
```

In this case, you WOULD get an error message about ambiguous

keyword definitions because IDL would not have enough letters to distinguish between the two keywords in the "keyword table" that gets created when the procedure is compiled. You must use enough keyword letters in the keyword name to identify that keyword unambiguously.

For example, if you had named the keywords Absolute_XMin and Relative_XMin, you could call the procedure like this:

JUNK, A=5

Cheers,

David

--

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

Subject: Re: IDL limits
Posted by [Richard G. French](#) on Mon, 03 Aug 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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Robert S. Mallozzi wrote:

>
> Hi all,
>
> I thought I read somewhere that IDL 5 removed all
> parameter limits, but I can't find it anywhere in
> the docs. I see that there are still some limits
> imposed:
>

Robert - One limit that I have run up against and can't find documentation for relates to KEYWORD names. I tried to define keywords XMIN_ABSOLUTE and XMIN_RELATIVE, say, and got an error message about ambiguous keyword definitions. Can someone point me to the documentation on unique keyword recognition? I have gotten around this by using different names, but it would be nice to know the rules of the game!

Dick French

Subject: Re: IDL limits

Posted by [mirko_vukovic](#) on Tue, 04 Aug 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <35C63C37.C3103D4B@wellesley.edu>,

rfrench@mediaone.net wrote:

> Robert S. Mallozzi wrote:

>>

>> Hi all,

> stuff deleted

>

> Robert - One limit that I have run up against and can't find

> documentation for relates to KEYWORD names. I tried to define

> keywords XMIN_ABSOLUTE and XMIN_RELATIVE, say, and got

> an error message about ambiguous keyword definitions. Can someone point

> me to the documentation on unique keyword recognition? I have gotten

> around this by using different names, but it would be nice to

> know the rules of the game!

>

> Dick French

>

I usually get an error message under those circumstances when I forget about the two similar keywords, and then call the routine with Xmin=... . Thus, are you sure that you are calling the routine and specifying unambiguously (that hurt) the keywords?

mirko

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