
Subject: Re: Two Questions

Posted by [davis](#) on Tue, 08 Aug 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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On Tue, 8 Aug 1995 16:24:20 -0400, Myron Brown <mbrown@olie.wvutco.wvnet.edu> wrote:

: Hi. I have two questions (that were not answered in the FAQ):

:
: 1. How do I declare global variables in IDL. I am used to writing in C and other such
languages. Am I missing something, or shoul

:
: 2. How do I write programs in IDL using entities similar to C header files? I'd like to do things
with some structure (not everyth

First of all, you need to get a text editor that:

1. Wraps text.
2. Does not have a 128 character line limit.

Almost any text editor will will meet these requirements.

--John

Subject: Re: Two Questions

Posted by [dave](#) on Wed, 09 Aug 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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>>>> > ">" == Joel D Offenbergs <offenbrg@fondue.gsfc.nasa.gov> writes:

In article <40ag77\$dvs@post.gsfc.nasa.gov> offenbrg@fondue.gsfc.nasa.gov (Joel D. Offenbergs)
writes:

>> mbrown@olie.wvutco.wvnet.edu (Myron Brown) writes: Hi. I have
>> two questions (that were not answered in the FAQ):

>> 2. How do I write programs in IDL using entities similar to C
>> header files? I'd like to do things with some structure (not
>> everyth

Put your info in a file, e.g., defs.h

put the following line in *each routine* that uses whatever is defined
there (common blocks, structure defs, etc.):

@defs.h

Good luck,

David.

--

David Fenyes dave@image6.med.uth.tmc.edu
University of Texas Medical School Houston, Texas

Subject: Re: Two Questions

Posted by [Jackel](#) on Wed, 09 Aug 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <40ag77\$dvs@post.gsfc.nasa.gov> [offenbrg@fondue.gsfc.nasa.gov](#) (Joel D. Offenbergl) writes:

> 1. Global variables do not exist. However, "Common blocks" can be used to
> achieve the same effect. (A "common block" is a group of variables which
> are declared in each function/procedure, but retain their values when out of
> scope, and can be declared in as many functions/procedures as you wish).

While "Global" variables do not exist, System variables do. These are created with the procedure DEFSYSV, and are globally visible. They can also be made Read_Only, so that functions cannot change them. Personally, I prefer common blocks, but the original poster might want to give both possibilities a try.

Brian Jackel
University of Western Ontario

Subject: Re: Two Questions

Posted by [offenbrg](#) on Wed, 09 Aug 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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[mbrown@olie.wvitcoe.wvnet.edu](#) (Myron Brown) writes:

> Hi. I have two questions (that were not answered in the FAQ):

> 1. How do I declare global variables in IDL. I am used to writing in C
> and other such languages. Am I missing something, or shoul

> 2. How do I write programs in IDL using entities similar to C header
> files? I'd like to do things with some structure (not everyth

OK -

You will find that IDL is very unlike C in many respects. However, these two things you are asking for can be "faked," if you wish:

1. Global variables do not exist. However, "Common blocks" can be used to achieve the same effect. (A "common block" is a group of variables which are declared in each function/procedure, but retain their values when out of scope, and can be declared in as many functions/procedures as you wish).

2. There aren't C header files in IDL. However, a named structure (once defined) can not be changed at all, so you only have to define it once. It is possible to write a simple routine which defines your structures, like

```
pro define_struct
;
common STRUCTURES, x, y
x = {STRUCT1, RA:0.0, DEC:0.0, EPOCH:0.0, FLUX:0.0}
y = {STRUCT2, ON:"", OFF:0L, THIS:fltarr(10), THAT:""}
end
```

```
pro use_struct
;
common STRUCTURES, x,y
define_struct
help,x,y
end
```

...This would define the structures and create variables X and Y which can be used as "prototype" versions of the structures, etc.

Good Luck!

Joel

--

"...And I am unanimous in this" - Mrs. Slocumbe

| Joel D Offenberg | offenbrg@fondue.gsfc.nasa.gov |
| Hughes STX, NASA/GSFC/LASP | I get paid to stare into space. |
