
Subject: Re: HELP: IDL Function/Variable Problem
Posted by [Tim Patterson](#) on Fri, 13 Oct 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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Thomas A McGlynn <tam> wrote:

>>
> It's not sufficient that you compile a function before you use it, you
> must compile the function before you compile any reference to it. E.g.,
> if you compile the main program then compile the function then execute
> the main program, you'll get an undefined variable error. You need
> to compile function, compile main, run main. Depending upon how your
> functions call one another and how they are distributed amongst the .PRO
> files, it may be impossible to run a program without compiling some
> of your modules twice. Of course that probably indicates that
> you need to restructure your code...
> Tom McGlynn

Not guilty in this case.
The function is compiled before any reference to it.
Still looking into it...

Tim

Subject: Re: HELP: IDL Function/Variable Problem
Posted by [hrebhan](#) on Fri, 13 Oct 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <45k85r\$10e@newsstand.cit.cornell.edu> Tim Patterson <tg4@cornell.edu> writes:
Hallo,

> I have a large IDL/FORTRAN/C program that seems to have suddenly
> developed a strange bug. All IDL routines are compiled and then
> the main program is run. However, when a certain widget button
> is pressed and the program goes into the event handler, it
> complains that one of my pre-compiled functions "CASPER_BORESIGHT"
> is a variable that it is undefined.

Be sure that the function CASPER_BORESIGHT is compiled **before** any
reference to it. Otherwise a default variable is created.

Servus, Helge

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Subject: Re: HELP: IDL Function/Variable Problem
Posted by [thompson](#) on Mon, 16 Oct 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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hrebhan@awi-bremerhaven.de (Helge Rebhan) writes:

> Be sure that the function CASPER_BORESIGHT is compiled *before* any
> reference to it. Otherwise a default variable is created.

I'm not sure that this is entirely true. I believe that it is sufficient if the function is in the IDL search path !PATH. Presuming, of course, that it's in a file called casper_boresight.pro. I almost never use .RUN directly. Instead I put each procedure or function in a .pro file of the same name and depend on IDL to automatically compile it for me.

One problem that I have run into is that if one has a function reference that uses a keyword, and that function is not in the path, and one tries to compile a procedure referencing that function, then IDL generates an error. IDL apparently goes through the following steps when it sees something that might be a function, going through each step until a match is found:

1. Checks to see if that function has already been compiled.
2. Looks for a .pro file of the same name in the current directory or in !PATH.
3. Assumes that it's a variable instead of a function.

The problem is that if step 3 is reached, but the function call uses a keyword, then a syntax error is generated.

Bill Thompson
