Subject: Bug? Hash and System Variable
Posted by SonicKenking on Fri, 31 May 2013 04:08:14 GMT
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The following simple code errors out

```
defsysv, '!SOME_SYS_VAR', hash()
help, !SOME_SYS_VAR
(!SOME_SYS_VAR)['A'] = 1
end
```

The output is as follows
<Expression>   HASH <ID=1 NELEMENTS=0>
% Expression must be an array in this context: !SOME_SYS_VAR.

The funny thing is that I can actually run the same command by typing it on the IDL prompt. So following command runs:

```
IDL> (!SOME_SYS_VAR)['A'] = 1
IDL> print, !SOME_SYS_VAR
A:       1
```

Is it a bug or feature? And how can I correct the code so it can run inside a routine instead of on the prompt (@ is the same as typing on the prompt).

Thanks!

Subject: Re: Bug? Hash and System Variable
Posted by SonicKenking on Mon, 03 Jun 2013 01:31:55 GMT
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Thanks for the responses. So it is most likely a Bug.

I did find a workaround in case anyone is interested. A hash variable is essentially a pointer. Also the bug seems only affect system variable. So following workaround works.

```
defsysv, '!SOME_SYS_VAR', hash()
a_normal_var = !SOME_SYS_VAR
a_normal_var['A'] = 1
print, !SOME_SYS_VAR
end
```