
Subject: Illegal variable name

Posted by [Sapna Mishra](#) on Sun, 20 Mar 2016 06:50:50 GMT

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Hi,

I am using this command in one of my bash script :

```
l=$(idl -quiet -e "print, n_elements('tmp1')")
```

its showing error: Illegal variable name.

How ever same script is running on other system.

What could be the reason???

Subject: Re: Illegal variable name

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Sun, 20 Mar 2016 23:25:57 GMT

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On 3/20/16 12:50 AM, Sapna Mishra wrote:

```
> Hi,  
>  
> I am using this command in one of my bash script :  
>  
> l=$(idl -quiet -e "print, n_elements('tmp1')")  
>  
> its showing error: Illegal variable name.  
>  
> How ever same script is running on other system.  
> What could be the reason???  
>
```

The way this is written, 'tmp1' is a scalar string, so N_ELEMENTS should always return 1.

In any case, I think "Illegal variable name" is a bash error because IDL just says "syntax error" when using an invalid variable name:

```
IDL> print, n_elements(3days)
```

```
print, n_elements(3days)  
          ^
```

```
% Syntax error.
```

Mike

--

Michael Galloy

