
Subject: DEFSYSV with /TEST option?

Posted by [MarioIncandenza](#) on Tue, 15 Aug 2017 17:27:16 GMT

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The /TEST keyword to DEFSYSV allows you to set default values for system variables; that is, if the value is not already set by an upstream process, DEFSYSV will set it. This is what the documentation says:

<https://harrisgeospatial.com/docs/DEFSYSV.html>

"TEST: Set this keyword to create a new system variable only if one does not currently exist."

But when we try to do this:

```
IDL> defsysv,'!VAR',0,/test
```

```
% Keyword TEST not allowed in call to: DEFSYSV
```

IOID (Implemented Only In Documentation)?

--Edward H.

Subject: Re: DEFSYSV with /TEST option?

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Tue, 15 Aug 2017 17:57:27 GMT

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What version of IDL are you running? Your example works correctly for me in IDL 8.5.1 in both Linux and MacOS.

On Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 1:27:20 PM UTC-4, Edward Hyer wrote:

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> --Edward H.

Subject: Re: DEFSYSV with /TEST option?

Posted by [Dick Jackson](#) on Thu, 17 Aug 2017 17:40:35 GMT

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... and correctly for me in IDL 8.5.1 on Windows.

Cheers,
-Dick

Dick Jackson Software Consulting Inc.
Victoria, BC, Canada --- <http://www.d-jackson.com>

On Tuesday, 15 August 2017 10:57:30 UTC-7, wlandsman wrote:

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>> --Edward H.

Subject: Re: DEFSYSV with /TEST option?

Posted by [MarioIncandenza](#) on Thu, 17 Aug 2017 23:03:35 GMT

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On Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 10:40:38 AM UTC-7, Dick Jackson wrote:

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> Dick Jackson Software Consulting Inc.

> Victoria, BC, Canada --- <http://www.d-jackson.com>

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>>> IOID (Implemented Only In Documentation)?
>>>
>>> --Edward H.
```

8.2.3 on Linux, does not work. Doesn't really matter, it's a two-line workaround using the EXISTS= keyword, but the documentation doesn't indicate this feature is new.

Subject: Re: DEFSYSV with /TEST option?
Posted by [Louis Giglio](#) on Mon, 21 Aug 2017 16:45:37 GMT
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Hi Ed!

Seems to have been added in IDL 8.5 (or perhaps 8.4.x):

```
IDL> print, !version
{ x86_64 linux unix linux 8.4 Sep 27 2014    64    64}
IDL> defsysv,'!VAR',0,/test
% Keyword TEST not allowed in call to: DEFSYSV
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

```
IDL> print, !version
{ x86_64 linux unix linux 8.5 Jul 7 2015    64    64}
IDL> defsysv,'!VAR',0,/test
IDL> print, !var
0
```

Cheers,
Louis