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Subject: Re: static variable mayhem  
Posted by [wmc](#) on Tue, 12 May 1998 07:00:00 GMT  
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In article 1@filet.nrlssc.navy.mil, "T Bowers" <tbowers@nrlssc.navy.mil> writes:

```
> function foofunc, x
>   common CBlock, firstTimeInFooFunc    ;I think this'll init to 0
>
>   if (NOT firstTimeInFooFunc) then begin ;init'd to 0, so I'll just NOT
> the bastard
>     firstTimeInFooFunc = 1 ;Set so this'll never happen again on subsequent
> calls
>     return, x = x - 1
>   endif $
> ....
>
> No such luck. It compiles, but when I single step to this line, I get
> % Variable is undefined: FIRSTTIMEINFOOFUNC (CBLOCK).
> % Execution halted at: FOOFUNC blah, blah, blah
```

Well I don't think it compiles, since return,x=x-1 is odd.  
But if you swap that to return,x-1 then it should compile.

To make it \*work\*, say  
common CBlock...  
at the main prompt (or somewhere above foofunc) and then say  
first...func=0 (or 1, or whatever you want...)

Then it will do what you want. Ugly, though.

- William

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Subject: Re: static variable mayhem  
Posted by [Theo Brauers](#) on Tue, 12 May 1998 07:00:00 GMT  
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Hi:

you may the following:

```
FUNCTION foo, x
COMMON foo, called
; look if called is defined, what ever value it has!
```

```
IF n_elements(called) EQ 0 THEN BEGIN
; define called
  called=1
  RETURN, x-1
ENDIF
RETURN, x+1
END
```

I hope it solves your problem.  
Theo

T Bowers wrote:

```
>
> Hi.
> I'm trying to do something very simple, but IDL 5.02 is fighting me. I'm
> trying
> to have what would be a static variable in c/c++ in a function set as a flag
> so
> that it is initialized when i come in, like so:
>
> function foofunc, x
> ;In c/c++ I would put this next line to init my flag the 1st time this fn
> is called
> ; from foopro below.
> ;static int firstTimeInFooFunc = 1; ;Set to 1 ONLY the 1st time foofunc
> called
>
> if (firstTimeInFooFunc) then begin
>   firstTimeInFooFunc = 0 ;Set so this'll never happen again on subsequent
> calls
>   return, x = x - 1
> endif $
> else return, x = x + 1
> end
>
> pro foopro
>   x = foofunc(0)
>   print, x
>   x = foofunc(x)
>   print, x
>   x = foofunc(x)
>   print, x
>   return
> end
>
> the output I want is:
> -1
```

```
> 0
> 1
>
> I tried:
> function foofunc, x
>   common CBlock, firstTimeInFooFunc = 1
> ...
>
> but IDL won't let me initialize firstTimeInFooFunc like this.
> Then I thought probably IDL would initialize it for me automatically to 0.
> So i just changed the code to:
>
> ...
> function foofunc, x
>   common CBlock, firstTimeInFooFunc    ;I think this'll init to 0
>
>   if (NOT firstTimeInFooFunc) then begin    ;init'd to 0, so I'll just NOT
> the bastard
>     firstTimeInFooFunc = 1 ;Set so this'll never happen again on subsequent
> calls
>     return, x = x - 1
>   endif $
> ...
>
> No such luck. It compiles, but when I single step to this line, I get
> % Variable is undefined: FIRSTTIMEINFOOFUNC (CBLOCK).
> % Execution halted at: FOOFUNC blah, blah, blah
>
> I'm *sure* I'm missing something here. Doesn't IDL have static variables?
> Can anybody help, please?
```

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