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Subject: Re: idlrt - passing arguments  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 28 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT  
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R. Bauer ([r.bauer@fz-juelich.de](mailto:r.bauer@fz-juelich.de)) writes:

> is it possible to pass an argument to the runtime code like a filename?  
> At the moment I am going through a tmp file, that's not fine but it works.

There are many ways to pass a filename argument to run-time or batch code. I have a whole file of them that I have collected from this newsgroup. I plan to organize them and put up on my web page some day, although it is certainly NOT going to be today. :-)

I think the simplest and easiest to use is to use ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES. I just tried this on my Windows NT machine and it works like a charm.

1. I went into my System Control Panel and selected the Environment tab. I created a new environment variable named IDL\_Filename to point to the name of an image data file I want to open in my program

2. Inside my run-time program I get the filename like this:

```
filename = GetEnv('IDL_Filename')
```

3. I run my run-time program. Done. Opens the correct file. To make the program run with another filename, I just make the change in my System Control Panel (be sure to hit both the SET and APPLY buttons!), then run my program again. Opens the new file. Very slick.

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting  
E-Mail: [davidf@dfanning.com](mailto:davidf@dfanning.com)  
Phone: 970-221-0438, Toll-Free Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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