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Subject: Re: Defining structuretype during runtime?? QUESTION!! (no reply)

Posted by [R. Bauer](#) on Mon, 06 Oct 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Norbert Hahn wrote:

```
>
> Juergen Paff <paff@paff.slip.ethz.ch> wrote:
> [...snip...]
>> 2) As you learn (name and) type only at run time, you might want to use the
>> command
>
>> return_status=execute(string_argument)
>
>> string_argument has to be a string that contains a command that is valid at
>> run time. Consider the following situation:
> [...snip...]
> Ahem, but look at this warning included in the help for execute:
> *** begin of quote ***
> "Warning
>
> "Do not use EXECUTE to create new variables inside procedures or functions. All
> variables used by the string that is executed should be
> referenced or defined when the program unit is originally compiled. New
> variables cannot be created after a procedure or function is
> compiled. Attempts to create new variables result in the error "Program data
> area full".
> *** end of quote ***
```

That's true, but you can undefine variables before with  
a=n\_elements(unknown)

```
help,unknown
UNKOWN      UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
```

Undefined variables could be used by execute, since idl3.6.1 !

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