
Subject: associated variables in structures

Posted by [Jacobus Koster](#) on Sat, 07 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Wizards,

I've run into a problem with structures and associated variables, and I CANNOT be the first person to see this. Here's why :

I have a big datafile, consisting of 96 images, each 128x128 integers.

I'd like to have a widget event handler select an individual image. So

I'd like to store the image as an element of the well-known base-widget user value, widely named 'info'. But, apparently IDL 5.0 will not let me define an (anonymous) structure which has an associated variable in one of the fields.

I realize that a pointer to this associated variable is most likely the ultimate answer to this problem and a host of other ones. I haven't tried this yet so I don't know about any problem I might encounter there. I just want to expand my understanding of associated variables, and also I'd like to see if there are other answers. (I admit there's only so much you can say about something as simple as associated variables but they're so darn useful I wish RSI would devote a little more than 4-6 pages per 6 manuals to this subject, even if they were only filled with examples)

Here's a short program with output, just in case I've got this figured totally wrong. If you remove the data:dat[0] line you get the same error message.

And by the way, I just discovered I can't copy text from my status window to another editor (running under Windows 95). Can you spell "FEATURE REQUEST", RSI ? Please ? Program output is just about the most useful information in debugging, and you don't want to read someone's typos there, I think.

pro assoct

```
close,1
openr,1,'E:\myfile.img'
dat = ASSOC(1,INTARR(128,128),96)
help,dat,/st
info = {data:dat[0], $
  images : dat }
close,1
end
```

```
DAT          INT = File<E:\myfile.img> Array[128,128]
% File expression not allowed in this context: DAT
% Execution halted at: ASSOCT          7:E:\RSI\IDL50\assoct.pro
%          $MAIN$
```
