

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

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<P><TT>I want an IDL program call C subroutines. Since the CALL_EXTERNAL mechanism seems to provide no possibilities for typechecking (?) I want to use LINKIMAGE, where typechecking can (and must) be done. Everything is pretty nasty (I really don't like pointers on pointers on pointers ...), but anyway.</TT><TT></TT>

<P><TT>How can I create (in my C program) a (IDL-) scalar variable of any type, that is set to something and returned to IDL. I tried something like:</TT><TT></TT>

```
<BR><TT>#include "Linktest.h"</TT><TT></TT>
```


<TT>{</TT><TT></TT>

```
<P><TT>&nbsp; IDL_VPTR pvResult = IDL_Gettmp();</TT>
<BR><TT>&nbsp; pvResult = IDL_CvtDbl(1, &amp;pvResult);</TT>
<BR><TT>&nbsp; return(pvResult);</TT>
<BR><TT>&nbsp;</TT>
<BR><TT>&nbsp;</TT>
<BR><TT>&nbsp;</TT>&nbsp;<TT>&nbsp;</TT>
```

<P><TT>which should (in my understanding) create a temporary scalar of type undefined, convert it to double, and return it back to IDL.</TT><TT></TT>

[illegible]

<P><TT>and calling the function with</TT><TT></TT>

<P><TT>IDL responds:</TT><TT></TT>

<P><TT>% MARGINS: Variable is undefined: <UNDEFINED>.</TT>

<TT>% Execution halted at: \$MAIN\$</TT>

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<P><TT>I tried some variants of the above, none worked.</TT><TT></TT>

<P><TT>Any help?</TT>

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<P><TT>Thanks</TT><TT></TT>

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