
Subject: Re: passing pointers to CALL_EXTERNAL
Posted by [David Foster](#) on Wed, 25 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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hdsfkj wrote:

>
> Hi Again,
>
> Is there a way to return a pointer to an array of bytes from
> CALL_EXTERNAL? My C routine
> creates the array and fills it with values. I would like to just pass a
> pointer to the array back to
> IDL. I found an old post with dejanews that suggests it isn't possible.
> I'm trying to avoid the
> performance cost that goes with creating an array in IDL, passing a
> reference to it to the C routine, and copying the previously created C
> array to the IDL array. Thanks for any help...
>
> Donald Green
> dfg@ai.mit.edu

Unless things have changed drastically the last time I looked at the docs for CALL_EXTERNAL, you must define the array before passing it to the C routine. An array in IDL is much more complex than an array in C; I suppose this would be possible if you knew a lot about the internal structure of variables in IDL, but I would just create the array first!

Dave

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