Subject: STRUCT_ASSIGN
Posted by mallors on Sat, 22 Aug 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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Hi all,

I have a structure defined as follows:

```
a = { f1: 0, f2: { x: 0, y: 0}}
```

I want to initialize the substructure f2
in a subroutine by having an instance of the f2
structure, then copying it field-by-field to
a.f2. STRUCT_ASSIGN seemed ideal for this,
except one problem - it doesn't work :-)

Assuming I have initialized an instance of
f2 (called data) with some values

```
data = {x: 10, y: 20}
```

the statement is

```
STRUCT_ASSIGN, data, a.f2
```

This fails with the error

```
% STRUCT_ASSIGN: Expression must be named variable
in this context: <STRUCT Array[1]>.
```

because a.f2 is an <Expression>, not a "named variable".
So, must I resort to field-by-field copy? The problem
is that "a" is actually an object ("self"), which has
some member variables that are large structures.
A field-by-field copy would be tedious, as each
structure has on the order of 30 fields, or so.
I wanted to write a generic "set" method that will
initialize the object's structures with some data.
If I must do a field-by-field copy, I would then
have to have several "set" methods, each of which is
specialized for each of the different stuctures
within the object.

Regards,

-bob m.

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