
Subject: Re: Is this a bug?

Posted by [rmlongfield](#) on Thu, 01 Oct 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <36129C40.297A@bial1.ucsd.edu>,

David Foster <foster@bial1.ucsd.edu> wrote:

> Platform: Sun Sparc2, Solaris 2.5 Patched

> IDL Version: 5.0.3

>

> Can someone please explain to me why the following is happening?

>

> p = ptr_new({a:1, b:2, s:{x:0,y:0, a:[256,256,48]} })

>

> print, ((*p).s.a)[2]

> 48

>

> ((*p).s.a)[2] = ((*p).s.a)[2] * 4

> % Temporary variables are still checked out - cleaning up...

>

> print, ((*p).s.a)[2]

> 48 ; Value was not adjusted

>

> help, ((*p).s.a)[2]

> <Expression> INT = 48

>

> print, ((*p).s.a)

> 256 256 48

>

> (*p).s.a[2] = (*p).s.a[2] * 4

>

> print, ((*p).s.a)[2]

> 192 ; Value *was* adjusted

>

> Is ((*p).s.a)[2] an invalid construct? IDL doesn't seem to have

> problems with it in the PRINT command, and it sure seems ok to

> me. The message about temporary variables seems to be a clue,

> but I need some help on this one.

>

> Thanks!

>

> Dave

> --

>

>

> ~~~~~
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> ~~~~~
>

Hi Dave, That's a pretty interesting (and disturbing) bug. I get the same results on my SGI. The temporary variable message is a puzzle because I ran your program just after entering IDL. Usually I get this message after a program crashes and I forget to type RETALL. (I don't know what this does internally, just that the book says that I should do it)

Based on my experience with pointers to structures with pointers to arrays (ugh!), this construction: `(*p).s.a[2]` looks more correct than this one: `((*p).s.a)[2]`, although I have never made this particular construction. I've also noticed that IDL does not discuss all variations. However, I use PRINT statements to check whether something is working properly. The fact that it doesn't in your case is worrisome.

I hope someone has an answer.

Rose

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