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