
Subject: Re: delvar

Posted by [steinhh](#) on Tue, 09 Feb 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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In article <36c05a04.0@208.206.112.5> "Dominic Zarro"
<zarro@tidalwave.net> writes:

> Actually, my last response was incorrect.
> A better way, using pointers is as follows:
>
> ;-- to delete a variable var
>
> ;-- allocate a pointer
>
> *p=ptr_new(/all)

Hi Dominic,

I guess you mean

```
p=ptr_new(/alloc)
```

(Seeing the "/all" in the ptr_new made me *really* confused,
I think the two extra letters are very clarifying :-)

[..]

>
> You can easily package the above into a simple
> procedure that deletes any variable var.

How about a one-line "syllogism":

```
ptr_free,ptr_new(temporary(var))
```

It's amazing what you have to do to delete a variable in IDL :-)

This discussion reminded me of a procedure I wrote some time in
1994, called like this:

```
ASSIGN_NOCOPY,destination,source
```

This was way before temporary() appeared on stage, and it even
(still) has checks to function (resorts to copying) with IDL
3.0, which didn't even have the NO_COPY keyword in the
WIDGET_CONTROL,GET_UVALUE=var mechanism....

Then came the handles, and then...

Which again reminds me - it would be **really** nice if RSI would start putting in "Not before version X.XX" information in the online documentation for (new) features. It's tiresome enough trying to write version-sensitive code, and I just don't need the extra work required to check exactly which of the current features go back to this or that version...

Stein Vidar
