
Subject: Re: Help: definition of the structure in COMMON block
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Tue, 30 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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VU KHAC Tri wrote:

```
> Hi folks,
>
> I want to define a structured variable as global variable. So I think
> about using the COMMON block to share this variable with others
> procedures. However, IDL does not enable to use this variable in a
> procedure without declaration.
>
> pro A
> COMMON SHARE1, X      ;how to define x as a structure ?
> X.a = 1
> X.b = 2
> end
>
> pro B
> COMMON SHARE1
> X.a = 4                ; this is not permitted
> X.b = 5
> end
>
> Does anyone know how to resolve this problem ?
> Thanks for your help.
> Best regards,
> Tri.
>
> PS. Thanks also all of you for all your precedent responses.
```

You should think about on using an heap variable too. With those kind of variables you got more flexibility as with a common block.
This heap variable has to be defined only once and you can use it in each routine without any declaration.

```
heap=PTR_NEW(CREATE_STRUCT(name='dd','name','a','value',24))
```

```
pro test
  b=get_pointer('dd')
  help,*b,/str
  print,(*b).name
  ; ptr_free,b ;remove pointer
end
```

```

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; sold and this copyright notice is reproduced on each copy made. This
; routine is provided as is without any express or implied warranties
; whatsoever.
;+
; NAME:
;   get_pointer
;
; PURPOSE:
;   This routine gets a defined pointer over the structure name
;
; CATEGORY:
;   PROG_TOOLS
;
; CALLING SEQUENCE:
;   a=get_pointer(name)
;
; INPUTS:
;   name : the name of the pointer
;
; OUTPUTS:
;   the pointer or -1 if it is not defined
;
; EXAMPLE:
;   a=PTR_NEW(CREATE_STRUCT(name='dd','name','a','value',24))
;   b=get_pointer('dd')
;   HELP,*b,/str
;   ** Structure DD, 2 tags, length=12:
;   NAME      STRING   'a'
;   VALUE     INT      24
;
;
; MODIFICATION HISTORY:
;   Idea was given by F.Rohrer ICG-3
;   Written by:   R.Bauer (ICG-1), 1999-03-15
;-

```

```

FUNCTION get_pointer,name
  c=PTR_VALID()

```

```
errvar=0
catch,errvar
if errvar ne 0 then return,-1

FOR i=0,N_ELEMENTS(c)-1 DO BEGIN
    s_name=TAG_NAMES(*c[i],/STRUCTURE_NAME)
    IF STRUPCASE(name) EQ s_name THEN RETURN,c[i]
ENDFOR

RETURN,-1
END
```
