
Subject: Re: IDL 5 Syntax ?

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 17 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Eric Kihn (eak@ngdc.noaa.gov) writes:

```
> I have a syntax question regarding IDL objects. I have a object
> which has as one of it's data elements
> a pointer to a structure (data). In a method (draw) if I try to
> access part of the structure like:
>
> plot, *self.data.X
>
> I get the dread "Must be a structure in this context" message. (Which
>
> I think it is)
> Where as if I do a :
> ds = *self.data
>
> Plot,ds.X
>
> Everypne is happy. Why?
```

Because the pointer dereference has the lowest order of precedence. Lower, even, than a structure dereference. So in the code that doesn't work, the data structure is dereferenced first, and then the pointer is dereferenced. But the pointer dereference is not dereferencing a pointer at that point, so this syntax fails.

What you can do (in all of IDL) is put parentheses around something that you want to have a higher order of precedence, since parentheses have the highest order precedence. This will work:

```
Plot, (*self.data).x
```

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com

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