
Subject: How do you access a field in a struct?
Posted by [Karri Kaksonen](#) on Wed, 15 Dec 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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Hi,

I have a small problem with accessing my structs.

The complete program (that does not work) looks like:

```
pro beer
  a = { $
    beer: 1, $
    icecream: 2 $
  }

  b = { $
    milk: 0.60, $
    beer: 1.25, $
    icecream: 0.75, $
    tea: 0.50 $
  }

totalsum = 0.0
selection = tag_names(a)
for i=0,n_tags(a)-1 do totalsum=totalsum + a.(i) * b.(selection[i])
print, totalsum
end
```

When I run this program I get:

```
IDL> beer
% Type conversion error: Unable to convert given STRING to Long.
% Detected at: BEER      16 C:\RS\IDL52\mri\beer.pro
% Type conversion error: Unable to convert given STRING to Long.
% Detected at: BEER      16 C:\RS\IDL52\mri\beer.pro
  1.80000
```

The funny thing is that it obviously replaced "beer" and "icecream" with "milk" as it could not understand that b.('beer') is the same as b.beer

Is there a way to pass the name of the structure field as a string?

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Regards,

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