
Subject: Re: Object Data and pointer assignments
Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 11 May 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Brad Gom (b_gom@hotmail.com) writes:

```
>> To reassign the pointer to something else (after it has been
>> defined by the INIT method), you simply de-reference the pointer:
>>
>> *self.InArray = newStruct
>>
>> You don't leak any memory because IDL is managing this
>> whole process for you.
>
> Thanks for clearing this up, David. These details didn't exactly jump out of
> the manuals at me.
```

No. Not exactly. :-)

```
> On a related topic, does anyone know if it is possible to leak memory without
> being able to see any lost heap variables with the 'help,/heap' command? I
> find that in a couple IDL programs that deal with shuffling large chunks of
> data back and forth in memory, IDL does not seem to free all the memory it
> uses back to the system. ie. When I monitor the memory usage with the Windows
> NT task manager, the amount of used memory climbs each time the IDL program is
> executed, and doesn't fall all the way back down -even though there doesn't
> seem to be anything in the heap. When I shut down IDL, all the memory gets
> freed.
```

NO IDL process (and I include IDL for Windows) gives memory back to the operating system while the process is running. What you are seeing is more likely the result of poor memory management inside a program module (e.g., not undefining an image variable when you are done with it before reading another one, etc.) than it is any leaking memory.

```
> Is this something I should worry about, or is it just a consequence of running
> in Windows? The memory 'loss' isn't severe, but I worry that my program is
> losing track of memory somehow.
```

Is is something you should worry about? Well, don't you own any Microsoft stock or something *really* worth worrying about? My oldest son got a girlfriend and a driver's license within days of one another. Now *that* is something worth worrying about. :-(

Cheers,

David

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