Subject: Re: pointer question
Posted by Mark Hadfield on Thu, 22 Mar 2001 03:47:09 GMT
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"Ted Graves" <egraves@socrates.Berkeley.EDU> wrote in message
news:99blck$ko7$1@agate.berkeley.edu...
> Hi all,
>
> Another lurker question ... let's say you define a pointer using the
PTR_NEW
> function and assign to a variable x. As long as you keep track of x and
don't
> reassign x and lose the pointer to the heap variable, things are great.
You
> can remove the heap variable from memory using the PTR_FREE procedure.
>
> But now let's say i have a function TEST that takes a pointer as an
argument,
> and i want to create a pointer on the fly to use in TEST. So i do
something
> like
>
> result = TEST(PTR_NEW(value))
>
> where value is whatever i want the heap variable to be. What happens to
the
> heap variable assigned in this statement after TEST returns? I'm assuming
> from that because of the way it was created, a heap variable now exists
that i
> can't easily get rid of without using HEAP_GC.

Yes.

But if you have access to the code of TEST you could do this:

```
pro test, a

   ; Do something with a

   if not arg_present(a) then if ptr_valid(a) then ptr_free, a

end
```

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