Subject: Re: pointer question
Posted by Mark Hadfield on Thu, 22 Mar 2001 03:47:09 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

"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

---

Mark Hadfield

m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz http://katipo.niwa.cri.nz/~hadfield National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research