
Subject: call_external, passing string (in unix)
Posted by [stl](#) on Thu, 30 Jun 1994 13:27:16 GMT
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hello,

I have been learning/testing/playing with call_external the last few days. PAssing strings, numbers, structures to and from some C routines on my sparc 10 running Sun OS . My question is this:

Is it possible to pass a string by reference, and redefine it in the shared object library as a longer string? (if so, do you use the field stype and set it to 1???) I have made numerous attempts at this, but it seems that you are limited to the size of the passed in string (from IDL) or shorter. Even when I 'realloc' (char *) s IDL dumps core, or get a bus error. (not surprising really)

I guess i am asking if I have to pass in a large string that is bigger then my expected data? Also, if you reduce the size of the string, does anyone have experience of weather this will lead to large memory fragmentation.

I guess as a side note, I am dreamingly hoping that some version will someday appear where IDL will allow you to type cast returned variables from routines called with call_external. Anyone ever heasrd of any plans for this? (or think its a usefull or really stupid idea?)

thanks for the help/insight with the string struff.

-stephen

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