
Subject: Re: Array has a corrupted descriptor
Posted by [thompson](#) on Mon, 21 May 2001 14:56:19 GMT
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Reimar Bauer <r.bauer@fz-juelich.de> writes:

> Hi,

> I got an error sometimes in one of my routines only on AIX.

```
> -- IDL> help,!version,/str
> ** Structure !VERSION, 7 tags, length=44:
> ARCH      STRING  'ibmr2'
> OS        STRING  'AIX'
> OS_FAMILY  STRING  'unix'
> RELEASE    STRING  '5.4.1'
> BUILD_DATE STRING  'Jan 16 2001'
> MEMORY_BITS INT     32
> FILE_OFFSET_BITS
>           INT      =   32
```

> The same routine works on linux and windows.

> The error text is:

> % Array has a corrupted descriptor: VAR

> the calling sequence is something like this

> var=function(x)

> First I like to know what's this error is meaning.

> It seems to me that's the RETURN statement won't work.

> The result value of my function is good.

> If it reaches the calling level of the function I got

> this error.

I suspect that the function is calling external code via something like CALL_EXTERNAL or LINKIMAGE. I've gotten error messages like that in the past when mixing IDL with external code.

The descriptor is the thing which describes a variable in IDL. It contains the datatype, array dimensions, and the physical location of the data in memory. When you pass around variables in IDL, you're really passing around the descriptors.

