
Subject: Creating pointer in structure

Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Thu, 01 Nov 2001 14:19:27 GMT

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If I need to define a structure containing a pointer before I know the characteristics of the associated heap variable, which of the following is preferable? Does it make any difference, or is it simply a matter of programming taste?

For example:

```
a = {point: PTR_NEW()}          ;Create struct w/ null pointer
... figure out what n is
a.point = PTR_NEW(FINDGEN(n))   ;Replace null pointer
```

or

```
b = {point: PTR_NEW(/ALLOCATE_HEAP)} ;Create struct w/ pointer->undef
... figure out what n is
*b.point = FINDGEN(n)              ;Define heap var
```

Thanks, Ken
