

---

Subject: Re: Defining Integer Field in a Structure  
Posted by [Harvey Rarback](#) on Wed, 07 Nov 2001 02:09:33 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

"David Fanning" <david@dfanning.com> wrote in message  
news:MPG.16523ca91d6c3e4a989757@news.frii.com...

> Harvey Rarback (rarback@slac.stanford.edu) writes:

>

>>> If you wish to create a stucture definition without  
>>> actually creating an instance of a structure, you  
>>> put the structure definition in a file, like this:

>>>

>>> PRO newstruct\_\_define.pro

>>> struct = {NEWSTRUCT, a:0, b:0.0, c:fltarr(10)}

>>> END

>>

>> This is something that has always confused me. It seems like the  
variable

>> "struct" is created (at least help will tell you that it exists). So,  
does IDL

>> "actually create an instance of a structure" with this mechanism or not?

>

> Well, of course, I was speaking metaphorically. :-)

>

> Certainly an instance of this structure gets created  
> in this routine, but its existence is fleeting. In  
> fact, it exists only as long as it takes to establish  
> the structure definition in IDL. Once that done, the  
> struct variable goes out of scope and the memory that  
> was allocated for its definition can be reused by  
> the real structure you are trying to create. Think  
> of it as smoke and mirrors.

>

> Does that clear up the confusion?

Yes. It's what I thought was happening. What bothered me  
was the overhead in creating the temporary structure.

--Harvey

---