Subject: Pointer syntax and IDL 4.0
Posted by tam on Wed, 19 Dec 2001 20:43:24 GMT

Recently I upgraded the a couple of routines to use pointers
in certain special cases. However the pointer dereference operator
is illegal prior to version 5.0, so the code fails to compile on
older versions of IDL -- though the great majority of the code is still
useful there. It would be nice to be able to use a single
version of code to support all users, so I'm asking the question:
Is there any way of addressing this, i.e., dereferencing a pointer
in a way that will not cause a syntax error for earlier versions of IDL?

An obvious solution would be if there were a dereferencing function
as well as an operator...

    x = ptr_val(some_pointer)

would be the same as

    x = *some_pointer

but I don't think IDL supplies one.   If I write this one-liner
myself, I may reduce the number of errors in the code to one
but I'd prefer to make it completely transparent...

Any ideas?

 Thanks,
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