
Subject: returning pointers and simple types from DLM functions

Posted by [Sidney Cadot](#) on Thu, 10 Oct 2002 11:09:11 GMT

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Hi all,

I am currently trying to program an IDL DLM that will provide a link to a previously-written C library. This is a first for me; while I have studied the IDL 5.4 external development guide quite extensively, I cannot find answers to the following two questions:

(1) the C library yields opaque pointers as results of some functions that I need to pass back to IDL, in order for the IDL program to be able later on to pass these back into other library routines. Question: what type should I use to represent pointers (IDL_PTR or IDL_MEMINT) and how do I make sure my code works properly on both 32- and 64-bit platforms?

(2) How do I construct an IDL_VPTR when my function should simply return a basic type, (say, an IDL_INT)? Should I use IDL_Gettmp() for this, and if so: should I be setting the "type" and/or "flags" field myself? This may seem quite silly to ask, but I didn't find an example of this or explicit instructions in the external development guide.

Best regards,

Sidney Cadot
Science and Technology BV
The Netherlands
