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Subject: getting structure elements by tag name string

Posted by [s\[1\]](#) on Wed, 08 Jan 2003 11:03:51 GMT

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Hi all,

I try to use a structure as a bad substitute for a hash map (hashs or associative lists or dictionaries or anything similar don't exist in IDL, do they?)

Suppose I have a structure like this:

```
s = {a:7,b:9}
```

and I have a variable that contains a tag name:

```
tag = 'a'
```

Now I want to put the value of the structures element with name tag into a new variable called value:

```
value = s.tag
```

This doesn't work of course, because tag is undefined for this structure. But how can I get this the elements value?

I found a somewhat crude way:

```
res = execute('value = ' + 's.' + tag)
```

That works, but it's really ugly. Is there a better way to do this?

And, is there a way to delete an element from a structure?

Thanks for all tips,

Sebastian

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