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Subject: dereferencing pointer arrays.

Posted by [Rochelle Hatton](#) on Thu, 06 Feb 2003 03:01:40 GMT

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On following some useful tips from the newsgroup, I have referenced my assoc variables (multiple files) with pointers. I have then placed these pointers into an array. Not being used to using pointers, I checked the help on dereferencing my array (BTW I really dislike the pdf online help in 5.6!).

So the help says, if you have a pointer array mm, you can dereference it using the index e.g. if I want the first pointer, I can type

```
IDL> print, *mm[0]
```

however I get this error-

```
% PRINT: File expression not allowed in this context: <PtrHeapVar9>.
```

Also, if I assign the index to a variable, it works e.g. `xx=*mm[0]`

I guess this is a problem because of what I am storing in the pointer, namely a non-variable reference thingy which is like a pointer (the assoc variable).

Is there any way I can dereference the assoc variable without having to assign it-the whole point of using the pointer??

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