## Subject: Re: Proper pointer cleanup question
Posted by Paul Van Delst[1] on Wed, 09 Apr 2003 00:09:01 GMT

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JD Smith wrote:
>
> On Mon, 07 Apr 2003 16:01:27 -0700, M. Katz wrote:
>
>> I want to make sure I'm taking all the steps necessary to clean up
>> pointers and free memory when I'm done with them. Here's an example.
>>
>> Suppose I have a pointer to a structure that contains pointers.
>>
>> a = ptr_new({n:10, p:ptrarr(10)})

<snip>

>> 2) a and all of its dependent pointers: for i=0,n_elements( (*a).p )-1
>> do $
>>   ptr_free, ((*a).p)(i)
>> ptr_free, a
>>

<snip>

> Another option is:
>
>   heap_free,a
>
> which will accomplish the same as #2 (avoiding a memory leak), and is
> only slightly slower.  When you're feeling truly lazy, it's quite a
> blessing.  You have no flexibility to pick and choose what to parts of
> a data structure to free, but often this isn't an issue.

Wha..? Is that another one of those undocumented IDL routines? It works on my current
version, but bugger me if I can find it documented anywhere.

paulv

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