
Subject: Re: Finding if a structure tag name is defined?
Posted by [wmconnolley](#) on Tue, 14 Oct 2003 21:53:41 GMT
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David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Reimar Bauer writes:

>> I often use `is_tag` to determine if a tag is in a structure

OK, thanks, I'll give it a go.

> But, alas, you are still going to have to call `IS_TAG`

> as many times as you have letters in your keyword, if

> you hope to fish it out unambiguously. :-(

Hmm, so, isn't that a flaw in IDL? Taking on board your well-reasoned critique of (over)using `_extra`, it still seems quite reasonable to expect to be able to find if a given tag exists in a given structure, via a mechanism as simple as using `n_elements` to see if a given variable exist. IDL seems to make this simple task harder than it should be.

(and anyway, looking at the pro, it only needs calling once).

-W.

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