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-reasonsed 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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