
Subject: Re: A complicate problem for building a map
Posted by [condor](#) on Mon, 20 Oct 2003 22:49:11 GMT
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ftls1@uaf.edu (ftls1@uaf.edu) wrote in message
news:<44042ede.0310182223.d736129@posting.google.com>...

>>> I've been thinking on this topic for a couple of weeks without any
>>> idea, in C language there is a concept of 'Group', but IDL does not.
>>
>> Unfortunately my understanding of C is on the basic side, and I don't
>> think I have ever heard of a "group" in C, so I don't know what
>> functionality you are looking for. Can you describe what that is
>> supposed to do and maybe someone could tell you how to emulate this in
>> IDL.
>
> sorry, made a typo. what I said is 'Record' in Pascal Language.

Well, it's been a couple years for me since I last looked at Pascal,
but IDL certainly has a record mechanism (I think they're called
"struct"). Here's a couple trivial examples:

;; create a template:

```
IDL> record = {name: "", age: 0}
IDL> help,record,/struct
** Structure <81bfda4>, 2 tags, length=16, data length=14, refs=1:
  NAME      STRING  "
  AGE       INT     0
```

;; create an array that holds a hundred of those:

```
IDL> a = replicate(record,100)
IDL> a[0].name = 'fred'
IDL> a[1].name = 'bob'
```

;; they can also be used in the usual array ways:

```
IDL> a[0:1].age = [35,36]

IDL> print,a[0]
{ fred    35}
IDL> print,a[1]
{ bob     36}
```

The tags in a struct can also be arrays, if desired, which are indexed
in the obvious way. I.e.

`a[0].array[5]` is the fifth element of the tag with the
name "array" in the zeroth record, while
`a[5].array[0]` is the zeroth element of that array in the fifth record.
