
Subject: Re: Everything I always wanted to know about IDL * but were afraid to ask.
Chapter1

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 14 Nov 2003 12:44:54 GMT

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df23775@hotmail.com writes:

- > *A=[*A, next_value]
- > As many times as the values I want to add to the pointer.
- >
- > I can print the whole pointer with PRINT, *A. But how can I get intermediate
- > positions??.

You subscript like any normal IDL variable. The only trick is knowing that pointer dereferencing has (generally) lower precedence than almost everything else. So we throw a lot of parentheses around when we are working with pointers.

```
values = (*A)[4:6]
*A = [( *A)[0:6], new_Value, (*A)[7:*]]
```

- > As far as I can recall from my C classes I do believe that in C, A means the
- > memory position pointed by A, in what we could call the first pointer
- > positions and you could use a counter to get further position with a syntax
- > like *(A+counter) In IDL *A means not only the memory position pointed by A
- > but also the full contents of the pointer?

Forget what you learned about C pointers. IDL pointers are NOT C pointers. Think of them as regular IDL variables that live in global memory space and you will be MUCH further ahead. :-)

Cheers,

David

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