
Subject: Re: Compiling file with many functions: huge performance difference between IDL and IDLDE

Posted by [Sidney Cadot](#) on Thu, 18 Mar 2004 20:32:23 GMT

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Mirko Vukovic wrote:

>> P.S. the reason we're doing this is that we need to implement a
>> string-based map with optional performance, like this:

```
>>  
>> FUNCTION f_tom  
>>   RETURN, 123  
>> END  
>>  
>> FUNCTION f_dick  
>>   RETURN, 456  
>> END  
>>  
>> FUNCTION f_harry  
>>   RETURN, 789  
>> END  
>>  
>> FUNCTION f, name  
>>   CATCH, error_status  
>>   IF error_status EQ 0 THEN RETURN, -1  
>>   RETURN, call_function("f_" + name)  
>> END
```

```
>  
>  
> Out of curiosity, would a structure work here:  
> a={f_tom:123,f_dick:456,f_harry:789...} ?  
>  
> It could be created using create_struct.  
>  
> Retrieve info using  
>  
> a=str.f_dick  
>  
> Curious minds want to know :-)
```

Your idea is sound, but I am not aware of a way to retrieve the index of a tag-name based on its name.

You assume that "f_dick" is available at compile time, whereas I need to resolve the string at runtime. Something like this would work:

```
i = TAG_INDEX("f_dick", str)  
value = str.(i)
```

... But only if functionality to get a tag index can be retrieved from a struct (anyone knows how to do this?) and if its fast, i.e. if IDL implements it via a hash table or similar.

Best regards,

Sidney
