M. Katz-

Thanks a bunch for your response. I tried the code and ran into more
issues. Upon using the call_external it simply converts the image
variable back to a long since IDL does its variable type declarations
on the fly. I then tried the following code:
image = ptr_new(bytarr(call_external("C:\Users\11ryan\CIDLFinal\testDLL\Debug\testDLL.dll
","testDLL")))
window, xsize=640, ysize=480 ;--- open a window for display
help, image
tvscl, *image

And the help, image says that it is a pointer, but when trying to
display it i get an error saying TVSCL: Width and Height must be less
than 32000. It looks as if it is trying to take the value and use it
as a dimension instead. Any more advice on what I could try? thanks
again for all the help-

-Ryan

MKatz843@onebox.com (M. Katz) wrote in message
news:<4a097d6a.0405192255.693cd62b@posting.google.com>...
> This is just a guess, but you might try the following.
>
>   ;--- declare image as a pointer to an array of byte type
> image = ptr_new(bytarr(640,480))
> image = call_external("C:\11ryan\temp\Debug\testDLL.dll","testDLL ")
> window, xsize=640, ysize=480 ;--- open a window for display
> tvscl, *image ;--- scale and display the contents of the image pointer
>
> after the call_external, you might also issue
> print, image
> If it returns something like this <PtrHeapVar1> then it's certainly a pointer.
> M. Katz