Subject: Programatically create structure
Posted by Michael Wallace on Wed, 04 Aug 2004 07:12:27 GMT
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I'm far from being a structure guru, but I hope someone out there is. Is there a clean way to create a structure programmatically? I will neither know the names of the structure tags nor know their types ahead of time (i.e. before runtime).

What I want to do is create a structure based on the results returned from a database query. In the general case, I won't know the columns returned nor the column types before I execute the query. Once I have queried the database I can inspect the result set metadata and pull out column names and column types. Before doing this query I can have a another query which will return the total number of rows that the second query will return.

So, I can get the total number of rows, the column names and column types. What I'd like to do is create a structure appropriate for the column names and column types. Once the structure is created, I can replicate it to make an array the same size as number of rows returned. But how do I create the structure in the middle of my running code?

Everything I've read in the IDL documentation about structures shows the tag names being set statically. I haven't found any way to set the tag names to some variable. If I could do that then I'd be past the hurdle of getting the tag names to match the column names returned. The second hurdle is to set the correct data type. I suppose I could use some default at first and then reset the type based on the column type later on, if necessary. If there were a way to create a structure by first saying how many fields are present and then march through each of the field and set the tag name and type, I'd be set. Maybe it exists somewhere, but it sure doesn't exist the IDL documentation.

I do not have my heart set on using structures if this isn't the way to go, but I'd like some nice general way to do handle results from a general query. In certain cases I will know what my query is ahead of time and then it's no problem since I can create the structure definition ahead of time, but it break down in the general case. The general case is always a doozie (just as Einstein).

TIA,
Mike