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Subject: Re: Zeiger in IDL -> call by reference in IDL  
Posted by [peter](#) on Mon, 08 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT  
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Karl Krieger ([kak@ipp-garching.mpg.de](mailto:kak@ipp-garching.mpg.de)) wrote:  
: [css@ipp-garching.mpg.de](mailto:css@ipp-garching.mpg.de) writes:

: >Weiss jemand, ob in IDL eine Pointeruebergabe moeglich ist,  
: >(aehnlich wie in C) ? Ansonsten sind ja staendig riesige  
: >Commonbloecke vonnoeten.

: After reading this guys question (if it was possible to pass variables  
: by reference in IDL) I read the fine manual on that subject which leads  
: me to another question:  
: They state that if you pass a variable to a procedure, it is saved in a  
: temporary location. When returning from the procedure, the new parameter  
: values are copied back into the corresponding variables.  
: Does this really mean that IDL allocates new memory for each parameter  
: variable even when calling by refernce i.e. passing a pointer?

It says that in the manual, but it isn't true. If you allocate big  
arrays till you run out of memory, then try passing that big array to a  
subroutine which, say, prints a single element, the call will succeed,  
indicating that the array was not copied.

I guess the manual is a convoluted attempt to explain 'pass by  
reference' to newbies.

Peter

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