

---

Subject: Re: Zeiger in IDL -> call by reference in I  
Posted by [lmudge](#) on Thu, 11 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

In article 2tq@hpl.hp.com, peter@hpl.hp.com (Peter Webb) writes:

> Karl Krieger (kak@ipp-garching.mpg.de) wrote:  
> : css@ipp-garching.mpg.de writes:  
>  
> : >Weiss jemand, ob in IDL eine Pointeruebergabe moeglich ist,  
> : >(aehnlich wie in C) ? Ansonsten sind ja staendig riesige  
> : >Commonbloেকে 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  
>  
> -----  
> Peter Webb, HP Labs Medical Dept  
> E-Mail: [peter\\_webb@hpl.hp.com](mailto:peter_webb@hpl.hp.com)  
> Phone: (415) 813-3756

Using handles in IDL (new to version 3.6.1a) seems to be a way of passing large arrays to subroutines by reference. Each handle has a handle id which is a unique 32 bit longword integer allocated by IDL. My guess is that this value is a pointer to a memory location that contains details of the variable contained in the handle and a pointer to the memory location where the data is stored.

Leith Mudge

-----

lmudge@awadi.com.au  
AWA Defence Industries  
PO Box 161  
Elizabeth SA 5112  
+61 8 256 0952

Microsoft Network is prohibited from redistributing this work in any form,  
in whole or in part. Copyright, Leith Mudge, 1995  
License to distribute this post is available to Microsoft for \$1000.  
Posting without permission constitutes an agreement to these terms.

---