Paul,

I didn't comment on any particular programming style or whatever,
but with the expression I showed, which is valid in IDL it is clear
there
is no other way than that structures must have fixed size fields.
Otherwise the expression could not be valid or at least only with some
weired rules (like pad to largest, clip to shortest, fixed only if
array member...).
My point was that IDL could not have been made to accept variable size
arrays in structures without being then more restricted on another side
(which answeres Michaels question I guess).

Cheers,
marc