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Subject: Re: On Pointers and Culture

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 04 Mar 2005 20:28:44 GMT

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JD Smith writes:

> Not only are pointer variables "more like IDL variables", they *\*are\**  
> IDL variables.

Alright! Another tutorial!!

But I do take issue with this:

```
> IDL> *p=findgen(10,10)
> IDL> help,/heap
> Heap Variables:
>   # Pointer: 1
>   # Object : 0
>
> <PtrHeapVar2>  FLOAT    = Array[10, 10]
>
> I just changed the contents of that heap variable. And no, this
> is no more dangerous than doing this:
>
> IDL> a=1
> IDL> a=findgen(10,10)
```

I think "no more dangerous" is like saying a handgun is no more dangerous than a rifle. It don't matter much if it's aimed at you! I will agree that a marksman who has taken his Hunter Safety class to heart is probably no immediate threat. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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