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Subject: Re: compile a routine wich include a commun  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Tue, 24 Jan 2006 21:05:09 GMT  
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>  
> That's what I'm thinking also. There's probably some fundamental design  
> issue that prevents it from being a simple thing to do. Sort of like  
> passing structure components as arguments and expecting them to be  
> writable in the called procedure - the pass-by-reference/value issue  
> previously mentioned.

The design issue is that since normal variables can't reference subsets of arrays of other variables, neither can pointer variables, since they are exactly the same thing.

By the way, IDL always does pass all arguments by reference, it just happens that if you feed a routine a temporary variable, like a structure member, or array subset, that variable is freed after the call... so it only \*seems\* these are being passed by value. In fact, modifying such arguments modifies the temporary variable, which is of course, immediately deleted, and so was quite a useless operation.

JD

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