
Subject: Re: changing a datatype in a structure
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Thu, 11 May 2006 20:18:56 GMT
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Kenneth Bowman wrote:

```
> You cannot change the type of a variable inside a structure, but you can add a
> new variable to an existing (anonymous) structure.
>
> IDL> data = {i : LINDGEN(5)}
> IDL> help, data, /str
> ** Structure <215d270>, 1 tags, length=20, data length=20, refs=1:
>   I      LONG  Array[5]
> IDL> data = CREATE_STRUCT(data, 'x', FLOAT(data.i))
> IDL> help, data, /str
> ** Structure <215d330>, 2 tags, length=40, data length=40, refs=1:
>   I      LONG  Array[5]
>   X      FLOAT  Array[5]
> IDL> print, data
> {      0      1      2      3      4
>     0.00000  1.00000  2.00000  3.00000  4.00000
> }
```

Yes, but what you've actually done is destroy the old one and create a new one, as the different ID numbers above attest. The difference doesn't generally matter for structures with small amounts of data but it certainly can for large ones.

--
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