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Subject: Re: changing a datatype in a structure  
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Thu, 11 May 2006 20:17:06 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
> }
```

Well, maybe it's just semantics, but in the above you create a new structure and copy the old structure's data into. So, in effect, you're "adding" a field to it, but in that case the following changes the type:

```
IDL> data = { i : indgen(5) }
IDL> help, data, /structure
** Structure <2213490>, 1 tags, length=10, data length=10, refs=1:
   I      INT  Array[5]
IDL> data = { i : float(data.i) }
IDL> help, data, /structure
** Structure <22135b0>, 1 tags, length=20, data length=20, refs=1:
   I      FLOAT  Array[5]
```

Mike

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