
Subject: Named and Anonymous structures ?
Posted by [robk](#) on Fri, 06 Oct 1995 07:00:00 GMT
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I could use a refreshing idea to get me out of a problem related to structures in IDL:

I must read binary data with variable format and had no problem to write an extraction programme that reads one file per IDL session, but my main problem now is that named structures cannot be changed once defined, and at the same time, anonymous structures (which can be changed) cannot be part of other anonymous structures.

At first I wrote a procedure that works fine on one file:
Below is a simplified version, reduced to the essential elements of the problem.

```
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PRO an_extraction.pro, struc_back_to_main  
  openr,unit,'huge_satellite_data_file_with_complex_structure',/get_lun  
  struc1 = {named_struc  
            (1):      0      , $ ; first part of data, always  
            (2):      0L     , $ ; same format  
            (...):    0.     , $  
            (5):  string(0)   $  
            };  
  readu,unit,struc1  
  
  struc2 = {another_named_struc      , $  
            (1):      0L     , $ ; always same format  
            (2):      0L     , $  
            (...):    0.     , $  
            number_of_rows:0      , $  
            nmbr_o_records:0      $  
            };  
  readu,unit,struc2 ; get values for number_of_rows and nmbr_o_records  
  
  struc3 = { made_to_measure_struc,  
            first_array: fltarr(number_of_rows, 10), $ ; dynamic  
            another_arr: intarr(number_of_rows, 25), $ ; arrays  
            };  
  
  array_of_struc3s = replicate({file_specific_struc},struc2.nmbr_o_records)  
  readu,unit,array_of_struc3s  
  free_lun,unit  
  struc_back_to_main = { pret_a_porter_struc      $
```

