
Subject: Re: structures, arrays of pointers and assignment
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 02 May 2007 16:08:08 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Ingo von Borstel writes:

```
> But now I wonder why deleting an entry works:
>
> PRO delete_entry, trackvalues, number
> IF NOT PTR_VALID(trackvalues.value[number]) THEN BEGIN
>   MESSAGE, "Trackvalues number is not a valid record. Nothing done",
> /CONTINUE
>   RETURN
> ENDIF
> PTR_FREE, trackvalues.value[number]
> trackvalues.used[number] = 0
> trackvalues.description[number] = "
> END
>
> IDL>delete_entry, sep213.trackvalues, 3
> will result in the deletion of the 3rd (or 4th, depends upon where you
> start counting) entry... Why the hell does this work then? Shouldn't
> work, if this was also passed by value...
```

Ah, because pointers are variables and are passed by reference:

http://www.dfanning.com/misc_tips/pointers.html

Isn't it exciting to learn about IDL? :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
