
Subject: Re: hooking external 'C' functions to IDL
Posted by [rivers](#) on Wed, 13 Mar 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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In article <4i6u40\$ivf@peabody.colorado.edu>, sena@spot.Colorado.EDU (Michelle Sena) writes:
> I am currently working on a program that uses an IDL gui interface to access
> an external database (Sybase) that contains various data needed for analysis
> and display. I need to go through 'C' to access the database. I would be
> getting back an array or arrays of data. From what I've seen, CALL_EXTERNAL
> can only return discrete data values. Do I need to use the LINKIMAGE routine
> to get back arrays of data? Or am I missing an option for the CALL_EXTERNAL
> procedure that would allow me to do this?

There is no restriction on CALL_EXTERNAL returning arrays in its function arguments. I think it can probably only return a scalar as the function value. IDL essentially passes a pointer to your C routine. You need to make sure that IDL and C agree on what it is pointing to in terms of data type and number of elements.

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