Subject: Re: update variable in structure Posted by David Fanning on Tue, 16 Jun 2009 16:14:53 GMT

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## M. Suklitsch writes:

- > So far, so good. Now we do exactly the same, but this time the
- > variable is embedded in a structure:
- > IDL> my\_struct = {my\_value:8}
- > IDL> update\_value, my\_value
- > IDL> help, my\_struct, /STRUC
- > \*\* Structure <8220044>, 1 tags, length=2, data length=2, refs=1:
- > MY\_VALUE INT 8

>

> And now the rather simple question: how come this doesn't work?

I think you must have meant, why doesn't \*this\* work:

IDL> udate\_value, my\_struck.my\_value

And the reason is that structure dereferences, like expressions, array subscripts, etc., etc. (in fact, anything \*except\* a variable) are passed by \*value\* and not by \*reference\*. Things that are passed by value make a copy of themselves and pass that, rather than passing the thing itself.

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")