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Subject: update variable in structure

Posted by [M. Suklitsch](#) on Tue, 16 Jun 2009 16:07:05 GMT

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Hi everybody!

Today I have a question regarding the update of variables within a structure, which does not work as I would expect.

Say we have a very simple program:

```
=====
PRO update_value, input

input = input MOD 5

END
=====
```

[In reality, this subroutine/program does some more sophisticated things, but this is sufficient to prove my point. ;-) ]

Okay, now we call this routine with a variable holding an integer value.

```
IDL> my_value = 8
IDL> update_value, my_value
IDL> help, my_value
MY_VALUE      INT      =      3
```

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?

Normally IDL is eager to overwrite variables of any kind. On some occasions, I've seen it overwriting the "parental" variable of a duplicated one. And more important: is there a way to get the above thing working?

Maybe important, maybe not: I'm working with IDL 7.0 and have tried it on Solaris and Linux.

Best regards,

