
Subject: Re: Tough System Variable Question for the IDL Gurus
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 12 Nov 2009 01:51:36 GMT
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David Fanning writes:

```
> Maybe a pointer *will* work.  
>  
> IDL> defsv, '!tester', Ptr_New(5)  
> IDL> help, !tester  
> <Expression>  POINTER  = <PtrHeapVar795>  
> IDL> help, *!tester  
> <PtrHeapVar795> LONG      =      5  
> IDL> ptr_Free, !tester  
> IDL> !tester = Ptr_New(/ALLOCATE_HEAP)  
> IDL> help, /heap  
> Heap Variables:  
>   # Pointer: 1  
>   # Object : 0  
>  
> <PtrHeapVar2>  UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
```

Well, this could be confusing. Let me take my example all from the same IDL session:

```
IDL> defsv, '!tester', Ptr_New(5)  
IDL> help, !tester  
<Expression>  POINTER  = <PtrHeapVar1>  
IDL> help, *!tester  
<PtrHeapVar1>  LONG      =      5  
IDL> Ptr_Free, !tester  
IDL> !tester = Ptr_New(/Allocate_Heap)  
IDL> help, !tester  
<Expression>  POINTER  = <PtrHeapVar2>  
IDL> help, *!tester  
<PtrHeapVar2>  UNDEFINED = <Undefined>  
IDL> help, /heap  
Heap Variables:  
  # Pointer: 1  
  # Object : 0  
<PtrHeapVar2>  UNDEFINED = <Undefined>  
IDL> Ptr_Free, !tester  
IDL> help, /heap  
Heap Variables:  
  # Pointer: 0  
  # Object : 0
```

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
