
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> defsysv, '!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> defsysv, '!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.")
