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Subject: Re: Tough System Variable Question for the IDL Gurus  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 12 Nov 2009 01:45:20 GMT  
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ben.bighair writes:

> Why do you want to remove a system variable?

I don't know. I don't always come up with the questions.

> Would making the system variable a pointer or object work? At least  
> then you could destroy/dereference them. I recall that I used an  
> object as a system variable for the old "CoolHelp" thingy. And  
> another thing, you *are* an IDL guru.

Yeah, but a guru who didn't know the answer. :-)

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>
```

Thanks for the tip and the fish story, Ben! :-)

Cheers,

David

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Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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