
Subject: help & help,/structure

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Fri, 13 Aug 2010 18:59:58 GMT

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A documented new feature of HELP,/STRUCTURE in IDL 8.0 has caused me a minor annoyance: According to the online help:

"If a single argument is provided to HELP, and it is a structure, then HELP will automatically display the structure information without having to set the /STRUCTURE keyword."

But I think this means that I can no longer use HELP to determine the number of elements in a structure array. In IDL 7.1 I could write

```
IDL> print,!version
{ x86 linux unix linux 7.1.1 Aug 19 2009    32    64}
IDL> help,tab
TAB          STRUCT  = -> <Anonymous> Array[58]
```

to determine that it has 58 elements. But in IDL 8.0, I get information about the structure but no information about the number of elements it contains... I have to print,N_Elements(tab) . --Wayne

```
IDL> print,!version
{ x86 linux unix linux 8.0 Jun 18 2010    32    64}
```

```
IDL> help,tab
** Structure <a065d74>, 21 tags, length=168, data length=162, refs=1:
OBS_ID      STRING  '00031688021 '
EXTNAME     STRING  'uu297081092I '
ASPCORR     INT      0
FILTER      STRING  'U    '
TSTART      DOUBLE   2.9708109e+08
```
