Jeremy Bailin wrote:
>
> Really? That seems like a horrible design to me. It's fine if you're dealing with one element, but what if you want
> to change the type of many of them at once? Then there's no way to do it without a for loop?

Yes. But, I would argue that if you wanted to do that regularly, the hash of structures like I described is probably not
the best choice.

An additional "but": If the hash keys to access the data is a vector (e.g. representing the "many of them") so would
bethe new values (you can't assume that the new values would all be the same, right?). Assuming it was possible, do you
think doing something like,

  hashtable[ids_to_change].type = array_of_new_values

is o.k.? I don't (but remember, I'm a physicist who writes code so what the hell would I know? :o) That would make it
way to easy to assign the wrong value. What if the two vectors, "ids_to_change" and "array_of_new_values", were
different sizes? Of what if some of the keys in the "ids_to_change" vector didn't yet exist in the hash?

cheers,

paulv