
Subject: Re: Name of arrays

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 21 Feb 2012 14:49:23 GMT

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On Feb 21, 9:35 am, Israel Rodriguez Hermelo <israelherm...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On Feb 21, 2:36 pm, David Fanning <n...@idlcoyote.com> wrote:

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>> Israel Rodriguez Hermelo writes:

>>> First of all, I want to thank you all of you for your suggestions.

>>> Second, just say that all this months, days and temperatures was just

>>> an example of what I want to do, so I need a general way to proceed.

>>> Third, I'm running IDL v7, so the solutions for IDL v8 don't work for

>>> me.

>

>>> So I'm trying to learn how to use structures, but they are a bit

>>> confusing to me and the information I have obtained from google is not

>>> helping too much. I would appreciate any example or link to a webpage

>>> showing how to use structures. Thanks in advance!

>

>> Structures!? You mean pointers, right? You need

>> flexibility and structures are, well, just about

>> the least flexible solution of all time. Are you

>> sure you mean structures?

>

>> Cheers,

>

>> David

>

>> --

>> David Fanning, Ph.D.

>> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

>> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

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

>

> hehe yes, I was trying to do it with structures but I was already

> thinking that structures are not flexible enough. I'll try with

> pointers then. I'll let you know how it goes.

>

No, structures are easy. You can add as many elements as you want and they can be any size that you want.

; First you create a dummy structure, or add some overall "metadata" information if you want.

```
my_struct = {file_date:'2012-01-03'} ;; Whatever you want
```

; Then add as many data points as you want.

```
my_struct = create_struct(my_struct, TEMPERATURE+MONTH(0), fltarr(28))
```

```
my_struct = create_struct(my_struct, TEMPERATURE+MONTH(1), fltarr(30))
```

```
...
```

```
my_struct = create_struct(my_struct, TEMPERATURE+MONTH(11),  
fltarr(30))
```

Pointers introduce their own overhead of allocating, managing and de-allocating them. Structures are totally extensible and have basically no mental overhead.

Later on, you can retrieve the contents with TAG_NAMES(), and the "structure array" notation my_struct.(N).

Craig
