
Subject: Re: calling a structure tag as a variable?

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 27 Feb 2012 16:52:16 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

desertdryad wrote:

> Hi folks -

>

> I have a set of structure variables I use in a suite of programs. I

> need to run the same procedure on several different fields within that

> structure; where the only difference in how the procedure is used is

> the particular field it operates on. But I don't want to do them 'all

> at once' either. I would like to be able to call the procedure in

> question by somehow making the tag name to operate on in the procedure

> a variable. But I don't think there is a way to do that in IDL?

>

> (did I explain my question understandably?)

How about something like:

```
PRO process_mystructure, $
```

```
    mystructure, $ ; The structure
```

```
    tag           ; The tag name on which to operate
```

```
    tag_idx = WHERE(TAG_NAMES(mystructure) EQ tag, count)
```

```
    IF ( count NE 1 ) THEN MESSAGE, 'Invalid input tag'
```

```
    ; Pull out data to operate on
```

```
    data = mystructure.(tag_idx[0])
```

```
    ....operate on data...calling separate, generic procedure?
```

```
    ; Stick it back in the structure
```

```
    mystructure.(tag_idx[0]) = data
```

```
END
```

??
