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Subject: Re: Storing !NULL in struct

Posted by [tom.grydeland](#) on Mon, 18 Mar 2013 09:00:58 GMT

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On Friday, March 15, 2013 8:40:56 PM UTC, Chris Torrence wrote:

> Hi all,

> Not to stir the pot some more [...]

Not at all, it is good to hear the rationale behind decisions such as this one.

> The deal-killer was that IDL structures are supposed to map directly to C structures. [...]

I'll buy that.

> As Mike suggests, perhaps HASH is the way to go.

Either of HASH or LIST would be perfectly fine, if I were able to even assign to already-known fields of structs stored inside them:

```
IDL> h = hash('f', {t:0})
IDL> help, h
H          HASH <ID=198 NELEMENTS=1>
IDL> print, h['f'].t
      0
IDL> h['f'].t = 1
% Attempt to store into an expression: Structure reference.
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
IDL> c = list({t:0})
IDL> print, c[0].t
      0
IDL> c[0].t = 1
% Attempt to store into an expression: Structure reference.
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

It's not that I cannot imagine a way of working around this, but it seems to defeat the purpose of providing high-level data structures.

> Chris

--T

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