
Subject: Re: Storing !NULL in struct

Posted by [tom.grydeland](#) on Fri, 15 Mar 2013 08:10:45 GMT

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> On 3/13/13 2:17 am, Tom Grydeland wrote:

>> And it would be useful _to me_ if I could put a !NULL in a struct.

>> I'm using the struct for UVALUES in widgets, and it would be nice if

>> they allowed _any_ well-defined IDL value.

On Wednesday, March 13, 2013 2:46:17 PM UTC, Mike Galloy wrote:

> But !null is undefined:

Not so undefined that I cannot assign it to a variable, or return it from a function, or use it as a good 'missing value' indicator in most cases. It is also pretty damn useful if you want to build an array by parts (although, as Bob pointed out, I could use a LIST for that last case).

See, I was trying to stash away an arbitrary value (provided by the user for their later retrieval) under a given tag in a structure, and I didn't want to restrict what values they were allowed to use.

So instead of using a struct { internal: <whatever>, public: <your value here> }, I thought I could use a List(<whatever>, <your value here>), but that didn't work either, since I'm not allowed to assign to a struct that lives in a List.

```
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: $MAIN$
```

```
:-(
```

> Mike

--T
