

On Thu, 11 Dec 2014, Jim P wrote:

```
>> The code should look something like this
>>
>> pro xxx.pro, ARGUMENTS
>>   openw, 2, 'temporary.temp'
>>   printf, 2, 'structure=create_struct( $'
>> CASE STATEMENT FILLING THE STRUCTURE DEFINITION in the temp file
>>   printf, 2, ')'
>>   close, 2
>> ; and instantiate it
>>   @ temporary.temp
>>   return
>> end
```

```
> I suspect this isn't behaving as you wish it to behave, due to a
> misinterpretation of how "@" is used.
>
> The "@" in your code is interpreted at compile time, not at run time.
```

I did not realize that.

The original code I had (dating to several years ago, before anonymous structures were introduced) used in fact a much more complex mechanism.

It wrote the structure definition (without use of `CREATE_STRUCT` which did not exist) to the `temporary.temp` file

then wrote a `xxxtmpnnn.pro` file with `nnn` increasing each time, which contained the invocation of `@temporary.temp` (and passed back the created structure as argument)

then built a string with the invocation of `xxxtmpnnn.pro` and used `execute` to invoke it

When I did now some simple tests, I thought that the above arrangement was become unnecessary now with `create_struct` and anonymous structures. I wanted to simplify it and hoped it were NOW possible.

Apparently I cannot do `execute('@temporary.temp')`

Is there any limitation to the string length in `execute(string)` ?

I used a temporary file because the structure definition is rather long, and is constructed in steps (driven from a data file) ... for legibility temporary.temp has the statement on several lines (terminated by the \$ continuation marker but last one)

If there is no limitation I could concatenate the pieces of the statement instead of writing them to temporary.temp and just execute the resulting string.

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