
Subject: losing pointers when concatenating array of structures
Posted by [MarioIncandenza](#) on Mon, 09 Jan 2017 06:35:37 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Hi IDL Wizards,

That topic is a mouthful, but I haven't encountered a tricky problem like this in a while, and I wanted your help to understand what's really going on here. Here's the code sample:

```
for i=0,1 do begin
  undefine,struct
  struct=create_struct('array',ptr_new(lindgen(i+1)))
  if n_elements(structarray) eq 0 then structarray=struct else structarray=[structarray,struct]
  help,*structarray[i].array ; looking for error
; this is where the error will happen
  if(i gt 0) then help,*structarray[i-1].array
endfor
end
```

Here's the result:

```
% Compiled module: $MAIN$.
<PtrHeapVar23543>
      LONG    = Array[1]
<PtrHeapVar23544>
      LONG    = Array[2]
% Invalid pointer: <POINTER (<PtrHeapVar23543>)>.
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$          9
```

Here's the fix:

```
  if n_elements(structarray) eq 0 then structarray=temporary(struct) else
structarray=[structarray,temporary(struct)]
```

If you use TEMPORARY(), this works. If you do not, it fails. Can someone help me understand this?

Happy New Year's everyone,

--Edward H.
