Subject: Re: IDL 5 Syntax ?
Posted by davidf on Tue, 17 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Eric Kihn (eak@ngdc.noaa.gov) writes:

```
I have a syntax question regarding IDL objects. I have a object
>
  which has as one of it's data elements
     a pointer to a structure (data). In a method (draw) if I try to
  access part of the structure like:
>
>
    plot, *self.data.X
>
>
    I get the dread "Must be a structure in this context" message. (Which
>
>
> I think it is)
    Where as if I do a:
>
     ds = *self.data
>
>
     Plot,ds.X
>
>
     Everypne is happy. Why?
>
```

Because the pointer dereference has the lowest order of precedence. Lower, even, than a structure dereference. So in the code that doesn't work, the data structure is dereferenced first, and then the pointer is dereferenced. But the pointer dereference is not dereferencing a pointer at that point, so this syntax fails.

What you can do (in all of IDL) is put parentheses around something that you want to have a higher order of precedence, since parentheses have the highest order precedence. This will work:

```
Plot, (*self.data).x
```

Cheers.

David

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