
Subject: How do you access a field in a struct?

Posted by [Karri Kaksonen](#) on Wed, 15 Dec 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Hi,

I have a small problem with accessing my structs.

The complete program (that does not work) looks like:

```
pro beer
```

```
  a = { $  
    beer: 1, $  
    icecream: 2 $  
  }
```

```
  b = { $  
    milk: 0.60, $  
    beer: 1.25, $  
    icecream: 0.75, $  
    tea: 0.50 $  
  }
```

```
  totalsum = 0.0  
  selection = tag_names(a)  
  for i=0,n_tags(a)-1 do totalsum=totalsum + a.(i) * b.(selection[i])  
  print, totalsum  
end
```

When I run this program I get:

```
IDL> beer
```

```
% Type conversion error: Unable to convert given STRING to Long.  
% Detected at: BEER          16 C:\RS\IDL52\mri\beer.pro  
% Type conversion error: Unable to convert given STRING to Long.  
% Detected at: BEER          16 C:\RS\IDL52\mri\beer.pro  
1.80000
```

The funny thing is that it obviously replaced "beer" and "icecream" with "milk" as it could not understand that b.(beer) is the same as b.beer

Is there a way to pass the name of the structure field as a string?

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Regards,

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