

---

Subject: Passing Image Data :)

Posted by [Logan Lindquist](#) on Fri, 19 Oct 2001 19:43:08 GMT

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---

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.0 Transitional//EN">
<HTML><HEAD>
<META http-equiv=Content-Type content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1">
<META content="MSHTML 6.00.2600.0" name=GENERATOR>
<STYLE></STYLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY bgColor=#ffffff>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>Since everyone was so helpful last time, I figured
I'd give this another shot. I read in the [Mr. Fanning's IDL PT 1st ed.] that it
is better to use Struct's ( info = { imageData:imageData} ) to pass common
program information between pro/functions rather than the IDL 'common' keyword.
Well I am having problems&nbsp;doing that. I would like to make it so it doesn't
matter what type[2, 3, or 4&nbsp;dimensional]&nbsp;&nbsp; of image I pass between
pro/functions. I&nbsp;might try&nbsp;making a image data variable for each type,
but that seems redundant. My original thinking was to make a dummy ByteArr and
then resize it, if need be, but that didn't work. </FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2></FONT>&nbsp;</DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>I tried several different variable initializations,
even making it so that it was the same as the returned image and it still gives
me an error saying that the expressions are not the same. I think I am just
going to rewrite&nbsp;it so that the image data&nbsp;is passed using the common
keyword. Does the common keyword&nbsp;make a pointer? Do I have to release this
from memory, or does IDL handle that? Now that I think of it, that might be
better, cause it would be faster if I could just create one instance of the
image data in&nbsp;memory rather than copying and pasting it between parts of
the program. So I guess what the question really is, What is the quickest
[best]&nbsp;way to pass image data of&nbsp;varying dimensions between program
components? </FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2></FONT>&nbsp;</DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>Thanks Very Much,</FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>Logan Lindquist</FONT></DIV></BODY></HTML>
```

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---

Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 19 Oct 2001 20:30:24 GMT

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---

Pavel A. Romashkin (pavel.romashkin@noaa.gov) writes:

- > Secondly, It is obviously the time to write that object (not OG!) book,
- > David! Who wants nowadays the Info structure as a pointer? The whole
- > widget program should be an object, and the GUI needs to be its property
- > - then everything will be right there when you need it :-)

Pavel, I'm telling you, my office is clean, the yard is mowed, the bills are paid. All I have to do now is sharpen these damn pencils ... and ... write.

But you are right, info structures are completely in the past. I haven't used one in a long, long time.

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say I'm working on the chapter now that expands on your tip (I think it was your tip) that the XMANAGER is completely extraneous. Now \*that\* is going to blow some minds! :-)

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.  
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Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

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---

Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)  
Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Fri, 19 Oct 2001 21:26:53 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

David Fanning wrote:

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> that expands on your tip (I think it was your tip)  
> that the XMANAGER is completely extraneous. Now  
> \*that\* is going to blow some minds! :-)

I would not get too carried away here. If you use

widget\_control, TLB, /realize, /managed

then that widget program (as well as other launched the same way) runs just fine and events are processed properly, but no other older program that does use Xmanager can work properly: its event queue gets stopped. So, if you let go of Xmanager, drop it altogether (I did).

Cheers,  
Pavel

---

---

Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 19 Oct 2001 21:38:35 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Pavel A. Romashkin (pavel.romashkin@noaa.gov) writes:

> I would not get too carried away here. If you use  
>  
> widget\_control, TLB, /realize, /managed  
>  
> then that widget program (as well as other launched the same way) runs  
> just fine and events are processed properly, but no other older program  
> that does use Xmanager can work properly: its event queue gets stopped.  
> So, if you let go of Xmanager, drop it altogether (I did).

Oh, sorry. I thought we were talking about the future  
here, where everything runs on Windows machines and  
all code must be re-written for each software  
upgrade. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting  
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Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

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---

Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)  
Posted by [Logan Lindquist](#) on Fri, 19 Oct 2001 21:52:31 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.0 Transitional//EN">
<HTML><HEAD>
<META http-equiv=Content-Type content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1">
<META content="MSHTML 6.00.2600.0" name=GENERATOR>
<STYLE></STYLE>
</HEAD>
<BODY>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>&gt; David! Who wants nowadays the Info structure as
a pointer? The whole<BR>&gt; widget program should be an object, and the GUI
needs to be its property<BR>&gt; - then everything will be right there when you
need it :-)<BR></FONT></DIV>
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>Pavel,</FONT></DIV>
```

<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2></FONT>&nbsp;</DIV>  
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>At first I started writing the&nbsp;GUI as an object using the various IDLgr\* components that now are apart of the language. I have never used these or the direct object window before, that was part of the problem. &nbsp;I was trying to simulate Dr. Fanning's :) image\_blend.pro, but that got out of hand quickly and decided to ditch the whole object thing until after my program is due. It's just programming finesse anyhow, another way to do things. I figured I would stick&nbsp;to what I was familiar with.  
&nbsp;</FONT></DIV>  
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2></FONT>&nbsp;</DIV>  
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2><A href="http://world.altavista.com/tr">Mögen Sie lebhaftlanges und sich zu erweitern</A>,<BR></FONT></DIV>  
<DIV><FONT face=Arial size=2>Logan</FONT></DIV>  
<DIV><A href="http://world.altavista.com/tr"><FONT face=Arial size=2></FONT></A>&nbsp;</DIV></BODY></HTML>

---

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Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 19 Oct 2001 22:16:34 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Logan Lindquist (llindqisit@mrdoc.cc) writes:

> Of course by no way did I attempt to dimean your honorific. I am sure you  
> worked hard [paid very little so you could practice writing long papers  
> while hopefully not having to grade a lot of tests or teach a lot of entry  
> level courses] to obtain the title of Dr., instead of recieving an honory  
> [free] one from a university that is more concerned with marketing itself.  
> :)

I don't know why everyone is rushing to my defense. I was just happy not to be addressed as "Hey Bro" like the kids on the tennis team tended to do until I set them straight.

> I would have the company order your new book in addition to the book by Liam  
> E. Gumley, but I would rather wait a bit and buy it/them for myself. That  
> way I get to keep it/them. You could however set aside one of those spiral  
> bound student versions. I am in class until Dec. of this year, even if it  
> doesn't relate to IDL. Guess I better put that in my budget before then, if  
> I want the discount. :) That way, everyone, including your wife will  
> satisfied with the transaction.

I'll tell you what. I was making a couple of changes to the book (the whole CELL\_FILL with filled contours on map projections fiasco) and I decided to have the boys mock me up a book using the "file prep" tool they have now. This is an Adobe Acrobat knock-off,

but they assure me it is the "way it's done now".  
I was dubious. I \*like\* PostScript!

Sure enough, the book looked great \*except\* around certain italicized words. There the spacing got a little close and it made it look like I hadn't run a spell checker on the book. (I have. \*Thousands\* of times!) It looks wonderful otherwise, but I'm too anal to allow a book with even a few word run-ons out the door. So I've got this book...

I put your name and a "half-off" sticker on it. Let me know.

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.  
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---

---

Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)  
Posted by [Andrew Cool](#) on Mon, 22 Oct 2001 02:28:04 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

David Fanning wrote:

>

> Logan Lindquist (llindquist@mrdoc.cc) writes:

>

>> Of course by no way did I attempt to demean your honorific. I am sure you  
>> worked hard [paid very little so you could practice writing long papers  
>> while hopefully not having to grade a lot of tests or teach a lot of entry  
>> level courses] to obtain the title of Dr., instead of receiving an honorary  
>> [free] one from a university that is more concerned with marketing itself.  
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> tended to do until I set them straight.  
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> Sure enough, the book looked great \*except\* around  
> certain italicized words. There the spacing got a little

> close and it made it look like I hadn't run a spell checker  
> on the book. (I have. \*Thousands\* of times!) It looks  
> wonderful otherwise, but I'm too anal to allow a book  
> with even a few word run-ons out the door. So I've got  
> this book...

David,

I'll leap to your defence too, and address you as Dr Fanning,  
rather than Dr. Fanning.

From one anal to another ;-)

-----  
Andrew D. Cool .->-.  
Electromagnetics & Propagation Group `-<-'  
Surveillance Systems Division Transmitted on  
Defence Science & Technology Organisation 100% recycled  
PO Box 1500, Salisbury electrons  
South Australia 5108

Phone : 061 8 8259 5740 Fax : 061 8 8259 6673  
Email : andrew.cool@dsto.defence.gov.au  
-----

---

Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)  
Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Tue, 23 Oct 2001 20:04:09 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Logan Lindquist wrote:

>  
> I went back and reviewed how pointers are treated in C++. I was wondering if  
> I made my Struct a pointer, could I access memebbers of Struct's using the  
> '->'?

I wouldn't go so far. IDL makes it simple for you to use pointers, as it  
takes care of allocating and deallocating memory when you dereference a  
pointer or change its value.

```
p = ptr_new() ; Make a null pointer (IDL, not C!)  
p = ptr_new(ftarr(100)); Place something in it
```

; or

```
p = ptr_new(/allocate_heap) ; Same thing but is a valid pointer  
*p = ftarr(1000) ; Replace contents.
```

ptr\_free, p ; Make sure nothing stays in memory when done

This is basically all there is. Of course Gurus may have more creative uses for them :)

-> operator in IDL is used to invoke object methods.

Cheers,  
Pavel

---

---

Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 23 Oct 2001 20:18:20 GMT

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---

Logan Lindquist (llindquist@mrdoc.cc) writes:

> Dr(.) Fanning,  
> [I thought Dr. had an period after it because it is an abbreviation of  
> doctor? I do not know what Andrew Cool is talking about.]

Please, "Hey, Bro" is fine. :-)

>> What you want in your info structure image field is a pointer  
>> to the image:  
>>  
>> info= { image:Ptr\_New(myimage), ...}  
>  
> I am wondering if you could clear up a couple of things about pointers in  
> IDL. How come myimage does not have to be defined during initialization? Does  
> the statement above create space in memory for a variable of indefinite  
> size? It seems to operate this way., where the data in memory is allocated  
> once the data has to be stored to the pointer array. Maybe I am  
> understanding pointers incorrectly.

Well, it might *\*seem\** to operate this way, and  
in fact there is no real harm *\*thinking\** it operates  
this way, but the facts are slightly more complicated.  
In truth, it operates just like this:

```
IDL> a = reallybigdata  
IDL> a = reallylittledata
```

That is to say, pointers use IDL's normal ability  
to allocate memory on the fly and change the type  
and structure of IDL variables on a whim.

Where you are probably going wrong is thinking that

IDL pointers are anything at all like C pointers. They are not. In fact, the only thing that is even remotely similar about them is their name. :-)

Pointers in IDL are simply normal variables that exist in a globally accessible area of memory that IDL itself manages. Nothing more or less. The fact that they are globally accessible gives them properties that are useful to us. Namely, we can have multiple program modules accessing large amounts of data just by carrying around a light-weight token that you can easily think of as a secret decoder ring. If you know the code, you can see the data. Simple as that.

In fact, if you know the code, you can change the data encrypted by the code. IDL itself will take care of all the messy details of how this is done. (CIA special ops, is what I hear.)

> 1.. The Pointer is created - a variable that 'points' to space in RAM reserved for a variable of indefinite size.

No, it actually points to a variable of a very defined size: the size of the variable it points to. If you don't know how big the data is going to be, or if you don't yet have a variable to store there, but you still want a valid pointer, you can make the pointer point to an "undefined" variable. Undefined variables are perfectly legitimate variables in IDL:

```
IDL> ptr = Ptr_New(/Allocate_Heap)
IDL> HELP, *ptr
<PtrHeapVar110> UNDEFINED = <Undefined>
IDL> Print, Ptr_Valid(Ptr)
1
```

> 2.. The data is read into RAM during the read\_image.pro.

Yes.

> 3.. The Pointer then needs to store the image data for future reference.  
> This is done by '\*info.image = newimage'. Where newimage is the image data  
> in RAM.

Yes,

```
IDL> *ptr = newimage
```



Now the pointer points to a defined variable that is a defined size. IDL itself has managed all the memory allocation, etc. for you.

> 4.. Is the data then copied into the space originally allocated for it or  
> does it simply change it's reference so as to point to the location in RAM  
> where the image data was read into?

Uh, I don't know. And frankly, I don't even want to know. It's fast, so I suspect the image data itself doesn't move. I prefer to think of it being done with smoke and mirrors, since it seems more mysterious that way. The point is, even if you knew how it was done there is nothing you can do in your code to affect how it is done, so there really is no point in worrying about it.

> I went back and reviewed how pointers are treated in C++. I was wondering if  
> I made my Struct a pointer, could I access memebbers of Struct's using the  
> '->'?

Don't ever review anything in C or C++ if you want to know about IDL. It will just confuse the daylights out of you. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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---

Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)  
Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Tue, 23 Oct 2001 20:39:36 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

David Fanning wrote:

>  
> sinThe point is, even  
> if you knew how it was done there is nothing you can do in  
> your code to affect how it is done, so there really is no  
> point in worrying about it.

David has just revealed to us why is his code so vastly superior to any

other this NG has ever seen, and why his business is booming. He just concentrates on making it work using what's available, not on thinking how it would work if something that in fact is not present was made available. Good lesson to all of us here who ask too many questions about Why RSI does something that it does.

Cheers,  
Pavel

---

---

Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)  
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Tue, 23 Oct 2001 20:43:41 GMT  
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---

From: "Logan Lindquist" <llindqsit@mrdoc.cc>  
> I thought Dr. had an period after it because it is an abbreviation of  
> doctor?

I think the idea is that the period is required only when the abbreviation removes something from the \*end\* of the word. Since the abbreviation "Dr" ends with the same letter as "Doctor", no period is required.

But hey, who cares?

> I do not know what Andrew Cool is talking about.

You're not alone there!

---  
Mark Hadfield  
m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz <http://katipo.niwa.cri.nz/~hadfield>  
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research

--  
Posted from clam.niwa.cri.nz [202.36.29.1]  
via Mailgate.ORG Server - <http://www.Mailgate.ORG>

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Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 23 Oct 2001 21:00:30 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Mark Hadfield (m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz) writes:

> I think the idea is that the period is required only when the abbreviation

> removes something from the \*end\* of the word. Since the abbreviation "Dr"  
> ends with the same letter as "Doctor", no period is required.

Really!?

That's why I like this newsgroup. I learn something  
new every day. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

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---

Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Tue, 23 Oct 2001 21:28:04 GMT

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---

Now, this is getting pretty hot. Who can look up an ANSI or at least  
IEEE standard on how to do this correctly?

Pavel

Mark Hadfield wrote:

>

> From: "Logan Lindquist" <lindquisit@mrdoc.cc>

>> I thought Dr. had an period after it because it is an abbreviation of

>> doctor?

>

> I think the idea is that the period is required only when the abbreviation

> removes something from the \*end\* of the word. Since the abbreviation "Dr"

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---

---

Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)

Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Tue, 23 Oct 2001 21:29:22 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Logan Lindquist wrote:

>

> Dr(.) Fanning,

> [I thought Dr. had an period after it because it is an abbreviation of

```

> doctor? I do not know what Andrew Cool is talking about.]
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> 1.. The Pointer is created - a variable that 'points' to space in RAM
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> 2.. The data is read into RAM during the read_image.pro.
> 3.. The Pointer then needs to store the image data for future reference.
> This is done by '*info.image = newimage'. Where newimage is the image data
> in RAM.
> 4.. Is the data then copied into the space originally allocated for it or
> does it simply change it's reference so as to point to the location in RAM
> where the image data was read into?
>
>>   *info.image = newimage
>>
>> IDL takes care of all the memory management for you. You don't
>> have to worry about it.
>

```

Please (re)read David's excellent synopsis of what IDL pointers really are: access points for otherwise normal IDL variables which live on a global heap. As far as the memory allocation for pointers, you have to worry about it only as much as you have to worry about memory allocation for normal IDL variables (i.e., not too much). Example:

```

IDL> a=fltarr(1000)
IDL> a=5

```

where did all that memory for the vector go? The ocean floor? Who knows.... IDL took care of it for us.

For saving memory and speeding pointer assignments, look to the NO\_COPY keyword for ptr\_new, e.g.:

```

IDL> info.image=ptr_new(newimage,/NO_COPY)

```

which causes newimage to be undefined, and simply transforms it into a

pointer heap variable, now referenced by info.image.

The equivalent normal-variable operation would be:

```
IDL> image=temporary(newimage)
```

which also results in leaving newimage undefined. You could obviously also do something like:

```
IDL> *info.image=temporary(newimage)
```

to mix the two technologies. All work exactly the same way.

One caveat: IDL manages memory for individual variables (normal or heap) quite nicely. It does *not* ensure that heap variables which are no longer referenced are freed: you must do this yourself. Note the subtle distinction: data attached to individual variables is book-kept; the collection of variables on the heap is not book-kept.

One more point. Objects variables are really just pointers into a special heap (called, remarkably, the "object heap"), and have the same bookkeeping issues as pointers. The only difference is, they can hold only one type of data, and have special assignment, access, and method invocation syntax. From a memory management point of view, however, they are identical: you can strand unreferenced object variables on the heap just as well as you can pointers variables.

JD

---

Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Tue, 23 Oct 2001 21:33:14 GMT

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---

From: "David Fanning" <david@dfanning.com>

> Mark Hadfield (m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz) writes:

>

>> I think the idea is that the period is required only when the abbreviation

>> removes something from the *\*end\** of the word. Since the abbreviation "Dr"

>> ends with the same letter as "Doctor", no period is required.

>

> Really!?

>

> That's why I like this newsgroup. I learn something

> new every day. :-)

And you shouldn't believe everything you read in it.

Having publicly pontificated on punctuation of abbreviations, I thought I should look for some support. For historical reasons, the only style manual in my office I have is an American one, viz. "Webster's American Style Manual" (1985). On p 95 it says:

1. A period follows most abbreviations that are formed by omitting all but the first few letters of a word, eg. bull. for bulletin, bro. for brother, fig. for figure, Fr. for French.
2. A period follows most abbreviations that are formed by omitting letters from the middle of a word, eg. secy. for secretary, mfg. for manufacturing, agcy. for agency, Mr. for Mister.
3. [various others less relevant]

So, Dr. Fanning, I am afraid this authority does not support Andrew and me. However, it is, as I said, an American authority. Perhaps the "no period [I mean full stop] when omitting letters from the middle of an abbreviation" rule applies in British English, as opposed to American English. I am sure I remember learning it in school. I could ask my school-age children, but I don't think they learn \*anything\* in school these days...I better stop here before I lapse completely into impotent pedantic curmudgeonry.

Cheers, bro.

---

Mark Hadfield  
m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz <http://katipo.niwa.cri.nz/~hadfield>  
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research

--

Posted from clam.niwa.cri.nz [202.36.29.1]  
via Mailgate.ORG Server - <http://www.Mailgate.ORG>

---

Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 23 Oct 2001 21:57:49 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Mark Hadfield (m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz) writes:

> And you shouldn't believe everything you read in it.

Alas, you don't have to remind me of \*this\*! :-)

- > So, Dr. Fanning, I am afraid this authority does not support Andrew and me.
- > However, it is, as I said, an American authority. Perhaps the "no period [I
- > mean full stop] when omitting letters from the middle of an abbreviation"
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- > remember learning it in school. I could ask my school-age children, but I
- > don't think they learn \*anything\* in school these days...I better stop here
- > before I lapse completely into impotent pedantic curmudgeonry.

My more authoritarian \_The Chicago Manual of Style\_, 13th Ed. Revised, although American, has this to say about punctuating abbreviations:

1. In British practice, a distinction is made between a true abbreviation, in which the end of the word is lopped off (vol., Inc., diam.), and a suspension, in which the interior of the word is removed (Mr., dept., acct.). It is usual in Britain to spell the latter class without periods. This logical practice shows few sighs of catching on in America, however.

I might add, in passing, that those Brits also have the nasty habit of spelling COLOR as COLOUR.

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

---

Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)

Posted by [Andrew Cool](#) on Tue, 23 Oct 2001 23:05:36 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

OK Guys,

I'd better quote my source...

"The Oxford Miniguide to English Usage" 1991 ISBN 0-19-869127-0

Page 3, Abbreviations

"It is usual to indicate an abbreviation by placing a point (fullstop)

after it, e.g.

H.G. Wells, five miles S. (=south), B.Litt.

However, no point is necessary:

1. With a sequence of capitals alone, e.g. BBC, CNN
2. With the numerical abbreviations 1st, 2nd, etc.
3. C, F (of temperature), chemical symbols, measures of length, weight, time, etc. in scientific and technical use.
4. Dr, Revd, Mr, Mrs, Ms, Mme, Mlle, St, p (=penny or pence)"

This guide to English was also published in the United States by Oxford University Press, New York.

What say we all compromise and call him "Doc Fanning" instead?

Andrew

PS : Just goes to show that not even New Zealanders speak the Queen's lingo...

-----  
Andrew D. Cool .->-.  
Electromagnetics & Propagation Group `-<-'  
Surveillance Systems Division Transmitted on  
Defence Science & Technology Organisation 100% recycled  
PO Box 1500, Salisbury electrons  
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Phone : 061 8 8259 5740 Fax : 061 8 8259 6673  
Email : andrew.cool@dsto.defence.gov.au  
-----

David Fanning wrote:

>  
> Mark Hadfield (m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz) writes:  
>  
>> And you shouldn't believe everything you read in it.  
>  
> Alas, you don't have to remind me of \*this\*! :-)  
>



>> So, Dr. Fanning, I am afraid this authority does not support Andrew and me.  
>> However, it is, as I said, an American authority. Perhaps the "no period [I  
>> mean full stop] when omitting letters from the middle of an abbreviation"  
>> rule applies in British English, as opposed to American English. I am sure I  
>> remember learning it in school. I could ask my school-age children, but I  
>> don't think they learn \*anything\* in school these days...I better stop here  
>> before I lapse completely into impotent pedantic curmudgeonry.

>  
> My more authoritarian \_The Chicago Manual of Style\_, 13th Ed. Revised,  
> although American, has this to say about punctuating abbreviations:

>  
> 1. In British practice, a distinction is made between a true  
> abbreviation, in which the end of the word is lopped off (vol., Inc.,  
> diam.), and a suspension, in which the interior of the word is  
> removed (Mr., dept., acct.). It is usual in Britain to spell the  
> latter class without periods. This logical practice shows few  
> sighs of catching on in America, however.

>  
> I might add, in passing, that those Brits also have the  
> nasty habit of spelling COLOR as COLOUR.

>  
> Cheers,

>  
> David

> --  
> David W. Fanning, Ph.D.  
> Fanning Software Consulting  
> Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: david@dfanning.com  
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
> Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

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Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)

Posted by [Pavel A. Romashkin](#) on Tue, 23 Oct 2001 23:33:21 GMT

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Andrew Cool wrote:

>

> What say we all compromise and call him "Doc Fanning" instead?

Just call 'im The Coyote. He deserved it :)

Cheers,

Pavel

---

---

Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Tue, 23 Oct 2001 23:48:37 GMT

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From: "Andrew Cool" <[andrew.cool@dsto.defence.gov.au](mailto:andrew.cool@dsto.defence.gov.au)>

> What say we all compromise and call him "Doc Fanning" instead?

Why I remember old Doc Fanning. He could deliver a baby without getting off his hos'. He could saw yer leg off and you wouldn't even notice the pain, his breath was that bad. Last time I saw him was in Larimer County in '01. I wonder what happened to him. I did hear he died of lead poisoning after he got caught by one of his patients husbands.

---

Mark Hadfield

[m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz](mailto:m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz) <http://katipo.niwa.cri.nz/~hadfield>

National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research

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Posted from [clam.niwa.cri.nz](http://clam.niwa.cri.nz) [202.36.29.1]

via Mailgate.ORG Server - <http://www.Mailgate.ORG>

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Subject: Re: Passing Image Data :)

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 24 Oct 2001 00:19:39 GMT

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Mark Hadfield ([m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz](mailto:m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz)) writes:

> I did hear he died of lead poisoning after he

> got caught by one of his patients husbands.

That sounds like him, alright. But I hear

the Mac enthusiasts got to him first, and  
he didn't have much left for the ladies.

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: [david@dfanning.com](mailto:david@dfanning.com)

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