Subject: getting structure elements by tag name string
Posted by s[1] on Wed, 08 Jan 2003 11:03:51 GMT
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Hi all,

I try to use a structure as a bad substitute for a hash map (hashs or associative lists or dictionaries or anything similar don't exist in IDL, do they?)

Suppose I have a structure like this:
s = {a:7,b:9}

and I have a variable that contains a tag name:
tag = 'a'

Now I want to put the value of the structures element with name tag into a new variable called value:
value = s.tag

This doesn't work of course, because tag is undefined for this structure. But how can I get this the elements value?

I found a somewhat crude way:
res = execute('value =' + 's.' + tag)

That works, but it's really ugly. Is there a better way to do this?

And, is there a way to delete an element from a structure?

Thanks for all tips,

Sebastian

Subject: Re: getting structure elements by tag name string
Posted by dscherba on Thu, 09 Jan 2003 19:55:15 GMT
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In article <3E1DAF62.487FB29F@hotmail.com>, Pavel A. Romashkin wrote:

> arrays? They do create indices, true, but still they serch them somehow,
> and that is fast. I'd say the speed is size-dependent, but it doesn't
> seem to be linearly proportional.

Different database systems use different methods, but all of them are sub-linear in some sense (if they weren't, there would be little point in indexing). Common methods are hash tables (essentially constant

lookup), and various search trees (balanced k-ary search trees have a lookup time of O(log n)). In the real world(tm) things get a bit messier, but that's the idea.

As for the original query, I have been known to use the EXECUTE() function to get my structure elements by tag string.

Regards,
David
