
Subject: Re: Expert information needed

Posted by [Nigel Wade](#) on Wed, 05 Feb 2003 10:09:52 GMT

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Ed Wright wrote:

```
>  
> Can someone explain the operation differences between:  
>  
>  
> IDL_VarCopy(IDL_StrToSTRING(shape_buf), Argv[2]);
```

This creates a new IDL_VAR and puts it into Argv[2].

```
>  
> and  
>  
> IDL_StrStore( &Argv[2]->value.str, shape_buf );
```

This copies the string into Argv[2], which must be writable. It doesn't free any memory currently in used by Argv[2], it assumes it contains garbage. As a precursor to IDL_StrStore I would call
IDL_StoreScalarZero(Argv[2], IDL_TYP_STRING);
to free any resources which Argv[2] might be using and to set its type to IDL_TYP_STRING (unless I'd created the variable myself in the routine and new it didn't have any resources allocated).

```
>  
> I discovered use of the second causes a malloc error under certain  
> circumstances, while the first does not.
```

What were the contents of Argv[2] on entry?

```
>  
> As always,  
> ED Wright
```

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