
Subject: CALL_EXTERNAL

Posted by [Thomas Gutzler](#) on Wed, 05 Feb 2003 06:14:51 GMT

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Hi again,

please correct me if I'm wrong.

CALL_EXTERNAL

- needs the /CDECL keyword to call a dll built by Borland C++ Compiler

with: extern "C" __declspec(dllexport)

It works with and without /CDECL for me

- can have values and references (default) as arguments but cannot RETURN a pointer. Just a scalar variable with the value of an address
- cannot have a NullPointer as argument and receive a Pointer to a variable/array (see below)

What I'm trying to do is:

C function:

```
int test(int argc, void* argv[])
{
    if(argc != 2) return 0;
    IDL_UINT *size = (IDL_UINT *) argv[0];
    int *array = (int *) argv[1];
    array = new int[*size];
    for (int i = 0; i < *size; i++) array[i] = i;
    return 1;
}
```

IDL:

```
IDL> array = PTR_NEW()
```

```
IDL> Result = CALL_EXTERNAL('mydll.dll', '_test', 10, array, /CDECL)
```

```
IDL> print, array
```

should be

```
0  1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9
```

but array is still a NullPointer

If I leave the line

```
array = new int[*size];
```

I have to initialize with array=intarr(10) and the returned array is:

```
0  0  1  0  2  0  3  0  4  0
```

This is not what I expected (funny values! maybe type-conversion helps?) and not what I want. I want to receive a pointer to an array, because IDL doesn't know the size of the array being returned (Yes, I could allocate a 1000000x1 array and resize it).

Is this possible ?

Tom
