Subject: Proper pointer cleanup question
Posted by MKatz843 on Mon, 07 Apr 2003 23:01:27 GMT
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I want to make sure I'm taking all the steps necessary to clean up
pointers and free memory when I'm done with them. Here's an example.

Suppose I have a pointer to a structure that contains pointers.

a = ptr_new({n:10, p:ptrarr(10)})

So, a is a pointer, and ((*a).p)(i) are pointers as well.
When I'm done with a and all of it's components, I can do a few things
to clean it up, but I don't want to do more than what's necessary.
Here's a few options.

1) Just a:
ptr_free, a

2) a and all of its dependent pointers:
```
for i=0,n_elements( (*a).p )-1 do $
  ptr_free, ((*a).p)(i)
ptr_free, a
```

3) Re-assign a to a scalar:
a = 0

4) Re-assign *a to a scalar:
*a = 0

What's the best thing to do? My pointed-to arrays are going to get
pretty large, so I don't want to strand any memory unnecessarily.

Thanks,
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