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Subject: structure access using strings for tag-names  
Posted by [Thomas Pfaff](#) on Mon, 11 Apr 2005 12:08:14 GMT  
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Hello everyone,

I would like to ask your opinion about the following.

Using the function `CREATE_STRUCT` it is possible to create a struct with tag names defined by strings. This way it is possible to create structs without knowing their names at compile time.

However even if I don't have to know the tag names when creating a struct, it seems that I still have to know them, when I want to access the data within that struct, because I couldn't find any procedure or function for this purpose and `struct.tag_name` quite naturally gives a syntax error.

Any ideas why this isn't implemented, or why it isn't necessary to have it (would be nice to set up simple associative containers, wouldn't it)?

Best regards,

Thomas

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Subject: Re: structure access using strings for tag-names  
Posted by [Antonio Santiago](#) on Mon, 11 Apr 2005 12:15:57 GMT  
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Thomas Pfaff wrote:

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> the data within that struct, because I couldn't find any procedure or  
> function for this purpose and `struct.tag_name` quite naturally gives a  
> syntax error.

Not necessarily. You can use the notation:

struct\_name.(filed\_num) to acces struct fields without knowing its names.

Bye,  
Antonio.

>  
> Any ideas why this isn't implemented, or why it isn't necessary to have  
> it (would be nice to set up simple associative containers, wouldn't it)?  
>  
> Best regards,  
>  
>  
> Thomas

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Subject: Re: structure access using strings for tag-names  
Posted by [Paolo Grigis](#) on Mon, 11 Apr 2005 12:31:57 GMT  
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Try this out:

```
;get list of tag names  
tagnamelist=tag_names(!P)
```

```
;find which tag has the name "MULTI"  
tagindex=where(tagnamelist EQ 'MULTI')
```

```
;access the structure  
print,!p.(tagindex)
```

You can use struct.(0), struct.(1) etc. to access the values  
in the first, second,... tag.

--Paolo

Thomas Pfaff wrote:

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Subject: Re: structure access using strings for tag-names  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Wed, 13 Apr 2005 09:29:05 GMT  
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> Thomas

You could use the routine tag\_position from our library.

```
test=create_struct('A',1,'B',2)
print, test.(tag_position(test,'A'))
```

[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_source/idl\\_html/dbase/tag\\_position\\_dbase.pro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_source/idl_html/dbase/tag_position_dbase.pro.html)

cheers  
Reimar

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Reimar Bauer

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Forschungszentrum Juelich  
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a IDL library at ForschungsZentrum Juelich  
[http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl\\_icglib/idl\\_lib\\_intro.html](http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg-i/idl_icglib/idl_lib_intro.html)

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