
Subject: Re: Problem with INFO definition

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 16 Aug 2005 15:57:38 GMT

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pravesh.subramanian@gmail.com writes:

```
> I am a big fan of David's book and I like the way Info structure has
> been used. I use the same method to handle data to be passed around.
> In one of my Event handler proc, I am returned a 1-d array which I
> would like to put in Info.
> Since I do not know the size of this array, how is it possible to
> define this 1-d array in the INFO structure in the Widget Def. Module?
>
> currently, I do something like this...
>
> 1-d = bytarr(32000)
> ...
>
> info = { $
>     .....
>     1-d: 1-d $
> }
>
> I really donno what size this array could take (anything between 0 and
> 32000).
> Is there a way to define this element in the event handler and not the
> WDM? What if the size of this array is not fixed (say the 32000 factor
> is not available).
```

Anytime you have information in the info or state structure and you don't know how big it is, or the size might be changing, you use a pointer to store it. This doesn't change the size of the info structure, and allows you to redefine your data at will.

```
info = { $
    ....
    data: Ptr_New(), $
}
```

When you go to fill it up:

```
IF Ptr_Valid(info.data) THEN $
    *info.data = data ELSE info.data = Ptr_New(data)
```

Of course, you need to free the pointer in the CLEANUP method of the widget program, so you don't leak memory when your widget program is destroyed.

Cheers,

David

P.S. I thought this was explained pretty well in that darn book. :-)

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Subject: Re: Problem with INFO definition

Posted by [pravesh.subramanian](#) on Tue, 16 Aug 2005 16:05:44 GMT

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Hi David,

Thats right! U have spoken about it in your book.

Thanks for the info...

Do u think that exporting formatted data to excel sheets is a good idea? I have tried it and it does look ok.. again, how do i append data to an existing file ?

Pravesh

Subject: Re: Problem with INFO definition

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 16 Aug 2005 16:42:12 GMT

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Pravesh writes:

- > Thats right! U have spoken about it in your book.
- > Thanks for the info...
- > Do u think that exporting formatted data to excel sheets is a good
- > idea? I have tried it and it does look ok..

No, I think exporting data to an Excel spreadsheet is a sacrilege. :-)

- > again, how do i append data
- > to an existing file ?

Open the file with OPENU.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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Subject: Re: Problem with INFO definition

Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Tue, 16 Aug 2005 20:36:21 GMT

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In article <MPG.1d6bc53c159e72a8989a43@news.frii.com>,
David Fanning <davidf@dfanning.com> wrote:

>> again, how do i append data

>> to an existing file ?

>

> Open the file with OPENU.

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

Or better yet, open a *copy* of the file with OPENU. :-)

Ken

Subject: Re: Problem with INFO definition

Posted by [pravesh.subramanian](#) on Wed, 17 Aug 2005 13:02:14 GMT

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Thanks for that one!
