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Subject: Re: Pointers problem - Unable to dereference NULL pointer

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 05 Dec 2007 18:00:42 GMT

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Romolo Politi writes:

- > I used pointers to share variables between different procedures.
- > When I compile the project it's all right. If I export the project
- > as .sav there is the error "Unable to dereference NULL pointer".
- > Someone just encountered this problem?

My guess would be that the pointer never got filled with data because the program couldn't find the data file. You are catching errors, and popping up a dialog message, right? So you would know if an error occurred in your program during runtime. The data file will, unless you are doing something special, have to be in the same location as the save file.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: Pointers problem - Unable to dereference NULL pointer

Posted by [Romolo Politi](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 13:17:24 GMT

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On 5 Dic, 19:00, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

- > Romolo Politi writes:
- >> I used pointers to share variables between different procedures.
- >> When I compile the project it's all right. If I export the project
- >> as .sav there is the error "Unable to dereference NULL pointer".
- >> Someone just encountered this problem?
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- > My guess would be that the pointer never got filled
- > with data because the program couldn't find the data
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- > message, right? So you would know if an error occurred
- > in your program during runtime. The data file will,
- > unless you are doing something special, have to be
- > in the same location as the save file.
- >

> Cheers,  
>  
> David  
> --  
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In may case the main program create the pointer, fill it, and then  
call the procedure for the widget creation.  
the data are written in the source.

```
wdg=ptr_new({id:0,set:0,cube:bytarr(5,5),band:0,res:0,flname : "",pre:  
0,iddata:0,cmx:0,cmy:0,foc:0,circ:0})
```

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Subject: Re: Pointers problem - Unable to dereference NULL pointer  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 14:10:28 GMT  
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Romolo Politi writes:

> In may case the main program create the pointer, fill it, and then  
> call the procedure for the widget creation.  
> the data are written in the source.  
>  
> wdg=ptr\_new({id:0,set:0,cube:bytarr(5,5),band:0,res:0,flname : "",pre:  
> 0,iddata:0,cmx:0,cmy:0,foc:0,circ:0})

Well, then my next thought would be "That's not the pointer  
your program is complaining about." My main point is that  
when you are building run-time applications, you have to  
have enough error handling built in to locate errors when  
they occur. You seem to be hoping this is an IDL error.  
I'd be willing to bet the balance of the tuition fund  
(admittedly not so much now) that it is a programmer error. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Pointers problem - Unable to dereference NULL pointer  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 14:17:41 GMT  
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David Fanning writes:

- > Well, then my next thought would be "That's not the pointer
- > your program is complaining about." My main point is that
- > when you are building run-time applications, you have to
- > have enough error handling built in to locate errors when
- > they occur. You seem to be hoping this is an IDL error.
- > I'd be willing to bet the balance of the tuition fund
- > (admittedly not so much now) that it is a programmer error. :-)

You know, it just occurs to me that this is *\*exactly\** the kind of error you are likely to get when you call a routine that is suppose to block at the command line. For example, a pop-up dialog of some kind. Since there *\*is\** no command line in a run-time environment, if these kinds of routines are not written as "modal" widgets (as opposed to "blocking" widgets), then a null pointer reference is entirely likely, since they will run through their block.

Here is a reference to an article you might find illuminating:

[http://www.dfanning.com/widget\\_tips/modal\\_blocking.html](http://www.dfanning.com/widget_tips/modal_blocking.html)

Cheers,

David

--

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Subject: Re: Pointers problem - Unable to dereference NULL pointer  
Posted by [Romolo Politi](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 14:23:14 GMT  
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- > Well, then my next thought would be "That's not the pointer
- > your program is complaining about." My main point is that
- > when you are building run-time applications, you have to
- > have enough error handling built in to locate errors when
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The only thing that I don't understand is "why when I compile the program without the run-time option it's all right?"

the programmer errors are the only certain things in a program ;)

Cheers

Romolo

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Subject: Re: Pointers problem - Unable to dereference NULL pointer  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 14:33:01 GMT  
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Romolo Politi writes:

> The only thing that I don't understand is "why when I compile the  
> program without the run-time option it's all right?"

See my follow-up article. My confidence is now VERY HIGH  
that this is a blocking vs. modal widget problem. :-)

> the programmer errors are the only certain things in a program ;)

Well, at least the tuition fund is safe. :-)

Cheers,

David

--  
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Subject: Re: Pointers problem - Unable to dereference NULL pointer  
Posted by [Romolo Politi](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 15:04:01 GMT  
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On 6 Dic, 15:33, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Romolo Politi writes:  
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I read the article and I try to create the group leader widget in  
modal mode, but it not works.

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Subject: Re: Pointers problem - Unable to dereference NULL pointer  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 06 Dec 2007 15:09:24 GMT  
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Romolo Politi writes:

> I read the article and I try to create the group leader widget in  
> modal mode, but it not works.

Did it leave any other clues behind?

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
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