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Subject: Re: Attempt to store into an expression: Structure reference

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Tue, 04 Nov 2008 16:39:33 GMT

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On Nov 4, 10:21 am, greg.a...@gmail.com wrote:

> I'm doing something wrong here, but what - I'm not sure...

>

> IDL> help,s.tab

> <Expression> POINTER = <PtrHeapVar26>

>

> IDL> help,\*(s.tab)

> <PtrHeapVar26> STRUCT = -> TAB Array[2]

>

> IDL> help,(\*(s.tab))[0]

> <Expression> STRUCT = -> TAB Array[1]

>

> IDL> help,(\*(s.tab))[0].img

> <Expression> POINTER = <NullPointer>

>

> IDL> (\*(s.tab))[0].img=ptr\_new(image)

> % Attempt to store into an expression: Structure reference.

>

> Any ideas why I can't assign something to this pointer?

>

> Greg

Because it's a null pointer. How was it created? When a pointer is created without know what it's going to contain, you need to us / ALLOCATE\_HEAP.

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Subject: Re: Attempt to store into an expression: Structure reference

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 04 Nov 2008 16:44:01 GMT

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greg.addr@gmail.com writes:

> I'm doing something wrong here, but what - I'm not sure...

>

> IDL> help,s.tab

> <Expression> POINTER = <PtrHeapVar26>

>

> IDL> help,\*(s.tab)

> <PtrHeapVar26> STRUCT = -> TAB Array[2]

>

> IDL> help,(\*(s.tab))[0]

> <Expression> STRUCT = -> TAB Array[1]

>

```
> IDL> help,((*s.tab))[0].img
> <Expression>  POINTER = <NullPointer>
>
> IDL> ((*s.tab))[0].img=ptr_new(image)
> % Attempt to store into an expression: Structure reference.
>
> Any ideas why I can't assign something to this pointer?
```

Too much work to test this, but I think you have an extra set of parentheses. I think it should be like this:

```
((*s.tab))[0].img=ptr_new(image)
```

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: Attempt to store into an expression: Structure reference

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 04 Nov 2008 16:44:41 GMT

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Vince Hradil writes:

```
> Because it's a null pointer. How was it created? When a pointer is
> created without know what it's going to contain, you need to us /
> ALLOCATE_HEAP.
```

I don't think so. I think there are one too many sets of parentheses.

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: Attempt to store into an expression: Structure reference

Posted by [Foldy Lajos](#) on Tue, 04 Nov 2008 16:57:10 GMT

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On Tue, 4 Nov 2008, greg.addr@googlemail.com wrote:

```
>
> I'm doing something wrong here, but what - I'm not sure...
>
> IDL> help,s.tab
> <Expression>  POINTER  = <PtrHeapVar26>
>
> IDL> help,*(s.tab)
> <PtrHeapVar26> STRUCT  = -> TAB Array[2]
>
> IDL> help,(*(s.tab))[0]
> <Expression>  STRUCT  = -> TAB Array[1]
>
> IDL> help,(*(s.tab))[0].img
> <Expression>  POINTER  = <NullPointer>
>
> IDL> (*(s.tab))[0].img=ptr_new(image)
> % Attempt to store into an expression: Structure reference.
>
```

Seems to be an IDL bug. This works in FL:

```
s={s, tab:ptr_new()}
tab={tab, img:ptr_new()}
s.tab=ptr_new(replicate(tab, 2))
(*(s.tab))[0].img=ptr_new(dist(100))
```

regards,  
lajos

---

Subject: Re: Attempt to store into an expression: Structure reference

Posted by [greg.addr](#) on Tue, 04 Nov 2008 16:58:31 GMT

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---

Initialised with /heap\_allocate:

```
IDL> help,(*(s.tab))[i].img
<Expression>  POINTER  = <PtrHeapVar8>
```

```
IDL> (*(s.tab))[i].img=ptr_new(image)
% Attempt to store into an expression: Structure reference.
```

...still get the same. But this does work...

```
IDL> (*(s.tab))[i].img=ptr_new(image)
```

Thanks for the quick answers! And I was thinking you could never have too many brackets when there's a pointer around! Still, I would like to know about /heap\_allocate - when do you need that?

regards,  
Greg

---

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Subject: Re: Attempt to store into an expression: Structure reference  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 04 Nov 2008 17:12:58 GMT  
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=?ISO-8859-2?Q?F=D6LDY\_Lajos?= writes:

```
>  
> On Tue, 4 Nov 2008, greg.addr@googlemail.com wrote:  
>  
>>  
>> I'm doing something wrong here, but what - I'm not sure...  
>>  
>> IDL> help,s.tab  
>> <Expression> POINTER = <PtrHeapVar26>  
>>  
>> IDL> help,*(s.tab)  
>> <PtrHeapVar26> STRUCT = -> TAB Array[2]  
>>  
>> IDL> help,*(s.tab)[0]  
>> <Expression> STRUCT = -> TAB Array[1]  
>>  
>> IDL> help,(*(s.tab))[0].img  
>> <Expression> POINTER = <NullPointer>  
>>  
>> IDL> (*(s.tab))[0].img=ptr_new(image)  
>> % Attempt to store into an expression: Structure reference.  
>>  
>  
> Seems to be an IDL bug. This works in FL:  
>  
> s={s, tab:ptr_new()}  
> tab={tab, img:ptr_new()}  
> s.tab=ptr_new(replicate(tab, 2))  
> (*(s.tab))[0].img=ptr_new(dist(100))
```

This is what I had in mind:

```
s={s, tab:ptr_new()}
tab={tab, img:ptr_new()}
s.tab=ptr_new(replicate(tab, 2))
>(*s.tab)[0].img=ptr_new(dist(100))
```

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: Attempt to store into an expression: Structure reference

Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Tue, 04 Nov 2008 17:40:17 GMT

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David Fanning schrieb:

> =?ISO-8859-2?Q?F=D6LDY\_Lajos?= writes:

>

>> On Tue, 4 Nov 2008, greg.addr@googlemail.com wrote:

>>

>>> I'm doing something wrong here, but what - I'm not sure...

>>>

>>> IDL> help,s.tab

>>> <Expression> POINTER = <PtrHeapVar26>

>>>

>>> IDL> help,\*(s.tab)

>>> <PtrHeapVar26> STRUCT = -> TAB Array[2]

>>>

>>> IDL> help,(\*(s.tab))[0]

>>> <Expression> STRUCT = -> TAB Array[1]

>>>

>>> IDL> help,(\*(s.tab)[0]).img

>>> <Expression> POINTER = <NullPointer>

>>>

>>> IDL> (\*(s.tab)[0]).img=ptr\_new(image)

>>> % Attempt to store into an expression: Structure reference.

>>>

>> Seems to be an IDL bug. This works in FL:

>>

>> s={s, tab:ptr\_new() }

>> tab={tab, img:ptr\_new() }

>> s.tab=ptr\_new(replicate(tab, 2))

```
>> ((*s.tab))[0].img=ptr_new(dist(100))
>
> This is what I had in mind:
>
> s={s, tab:ptr_new()}
> tab={tab, img:ptr_new()}
> s.tab=ptr_new( replicate(tab, 2))
> ((*s.tab))[0].img=ptr_new(dist(100))
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
```

I think it should be only

```
(*s.tab)[0].img=ptr_new(dist(100))
```

cheers  
Reimar

---

---

Subject: Re: Attempt to store into an expression: Structure reference  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 04 Nov 2008 18:54:52 GMT  
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Reimar Bauer writes:

```
> I think it should be only
>
> (*s.tab)[0].img=ptr_new(dist(100))
```

Yeah, that, too. ;-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming ([www.dfanning.com](http://www.dfanning.com))  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: Attempt to store into an expression: Structure reference  
Posted by [greg.addr](#) on Wed, 05 Nov 2008 08:31:11 GMT  
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```
> I think it should be only  
>  
> (*s.tab)[0].img=ptr_new(dist(100))
```

Ha! Can't believe that! All those brackets have been annoying me for years - now I realise I must have written kilobytes of them unnecessarily...

many thanks,  
Greg

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