
Subject: Re: Dynamically sized arrays

Posted by [David Foster](#) on Wed, 30 Apr 1997 07:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Michael Wu wrote:

>
> Is there a way to dynamically size arrays? I am
> writing a program to read data from files of unknown
> quantity of data. Or is the only way to use handles?
> I am at a loss to program handles.
>

First, I would pass along a gently RTFM, as your question could be answered pretty easily with a little perusing of the manuals.

To dynamically create arrays, just use the array creation routines and use variables to specify how big you want them to be, eg:

```
array = intarr(xdim, ydim)
```

(see also `bytarr`, `lonarr`, `fltarr`, `strarr`, `dblarr`, `complexarr`). Or you can use the even more convenient `MAKE_ARRAY` routine.

As far as handles go, it's really not as intimidating as it sounds. Here's an example:

```
handle = handle_create()      ; Create handle  
a = dist(100,100)             ; Create some data  
handle_value, handle, a, /set, /no_copy ; Give data to handle
```

```
...
```

```
handle_value, handle, new_a    ; Later, get data from handle
```

```
...
```

```
handle_free, handle           ; Be sure to free!
```

You can keep handles in common-blocks or, even better, put them in a structure and make that structure the `UVALUE` of the top-level-base (or first child) of your widget. See the User's Guide section on widget programming for an example of saving the "state information" this way, and using it in your event handler.

Good luck! A good motto is "RTFM first, then post..."

Dave

--

~~~~~  
David S. Foster      Univ. of California, San Diego  
Programmer/Analyst   Brain Image Analysis Laboratory  
foster@bial1.ucsd.edu   Department of Psychiatry  
(619) 622-5892      8950 Via La Jolla Drive, Suite 2200  
                         La Jolla, CA 92037  
                         [ UCSD Mail Code 0949 ]  
~~~~~
