
Subject: Re: deleting structures?

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 13 Feb 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Daniel Williams (williams@idunn.srl.caltech.edu) writes:

> Is there any way to delete a structure type?

There is no way in IDL to delete a NAMED structure definition. For the same reason that you can't change a COMMON block definition: i.e., memory has been set aside and you don't want to overwrite it.

> When developing code, it
> is incredibly annoying to have to quit and restart an IDL session
> every time I decide that I need to modify a structure.

Indeed. That is why when you are developing code it is a good idea to use ANONYMOUS structure definitions. You can change these as often as you like. When you get the code debugged and you think you are finished with it, and there is some **reason** to use a NAMED structure, then add a name to the structure and off you go.

An ANONYMOUS structure definition:

```
a = FltArr(10)
b = 5
struct = {A:a, B:b}
```

A NAMED structure definition:

```
a = FltArr(10)
b = 5
struct = {MYSTRUCT, A:a, B:b}
```

Cheers,

David

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