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Subject: Re: recursive tag\_names

Posted by [davidf](#) on Sun, 22 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Cathy ([csaute3@alumni.umbc.edu](mailto:csaute3@alumni.umbc.edu)) writes:

> Does anyone have a "recursive" tag\_names like function. I would like to  
> pass in a structure and get back a string array with members down to the  
> bottom level. For example:  
>  
> input = {a:{m,n}, b:{r,s,t}, c, d, e}  
>  
> output = recursive\_tag\_names\_function(input)  
>  
> print, output  
>  
> 'input.a.m', 'input.a.n', 'input.b.r', 'input.b.s', 'input.b.t',  
> 'input.c', 'input.d', 'input.e'

It must have been a slow news day, or something, but for some reason this question intrigued me. I thought something like this might be useful for the object programming I am doing.

So here it is. There is a little main-level program below the two program modules that exercises the principle program, Get\_Tags. If you just pass the structure to the program, you get all the fields with a "dot" in front of the names. For example,

```
tags = Get_Tags(struct)
```

returns:

```
.one  
.one.two  
.one.two.three
```

etc. If you want the full name back, pass a second positional parameter that is the root name of the structure. For example,

```
tags = Get_Tags(struct, 'struct')
```

returns:

```
struct.one  
struct.one.two  
struct.one.two.three
```

Note that the string vector that is actually returned from the Get\_Tags function (line Tag\_Names) is all UPPERCASE.

Cheers,

David

-----

Function All\_Tags, structure, rootname

; This is a function that recursively searches through  
; a structure tree, finding ALL of the structure's field names.  
; It returns a pointer to an array of pointers, each pointing  
; to the names of structure fields.

```
IF N_Elements(rootname) EQ 0 THEN rootname = '.' ELSE $  
    rootname = StrUpCase(rootname) + '.'  
names = Tag_Names(structure)  
returnValue = Ptr_New(rootname + names)
```

; If any of the fields are structures, report them too.

```
FOR j=0,N_Elements(names)-1 DO BEGIN  
    ok = Execute('s = Size(structure.' + names[j] + ')')  
    IF s[s[0]+1] EQ 8 THEN BEGIN  
        newrootname = rootname + names[j]  
        theseNames = Call_Function('All_Tags', $  
            structure.(j), newrootname)  
        returnValue = [[returnValue],[theseNames]]  
    ENDIF  
ENDFOR
```

```
RETURN, returnValue  
END
```

-----

FUNCTION Get\_Tags, structure, rootname

; This function returns the names of all structure fields  
; in the structure as a string array. The names are given  
; as valid structure names from the root structure name,  
; which can be passed in along with the structure itself.

On\_Error, 1

; Check parameters.

CASE N\_Params() OF

0: BEGIN

    Message, 'Structure argument is required.'

ENDCASE

1: BEGIN

    rootname = "

    s = Size(structure)

    IF s[s[0]+1] NE 8 THEN \$

        Message, 'Structure argument is required.'

ENDCASE

2: BEGIN

    s = Size(structure)

    IF s[s[0]+1] NE 8 THEN \$

        Message, 'Structure argument is required.'

    s = Size(rootname)

    IF s[s[0]+1] NE 7 THEN \$

        Message, 'Root Name parameter must be a STRING'

ENDCASE

ENDCASE

tags = All\_Tags(structure, rootname)

; Extract and free the first pointer.

retval = [\*tags[0,0]]

Ptr\_Free, tags[0,0]

; Extract and free the the rest of the pointers.

s = Size(tags)

FOR j=1,s[2]-1 DO BEGIN

    retval = [retval, \*tags[0,j]]

    Ptr\_Free, tags[0,j]

ENDFOR

Ptr\_Free, tags

; Return the structure names.

RETURN, retval

END

; Main-level program to exercise Get\_Tags.

```
d = {dog:'spot', cat:'fuzzy'}
c = {spots:4, animals:d}
b = {fast:c, slow:-1}
a = {cars:b, pipeds:c, others:'man'}
tags = Get_Tags(a)
s = Size(tags)
For j=0,s[1]-1 Do Print, tags[j]
END
```

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Subject: Re: recursive tag\_names

Posted by [Richard D. Hunt](#) on Fri, 27 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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I have written three routines to work with structures. The first is REMOVEELM.PRO which will take a structure and remove an element from it.

The second is REPLACEELM.PRO which will add or replace an element within a structure. The third is STRUCTELMNAMES.PRO will take a structure

and return a string array which lists every element of the structure. All of these routines will work on structures of structures. The only real side effect I have seen so far is that if you are using named structures the first two routines will return anonymous structures since you can't change a named structure.

Rich

```
;  
; This function will remove an element of a structure.  
;  
; NOTE: This will return an anonymous structure since named a  
;       named structure cannot be resized once it is defined.  
;  
; str: the structure you want to remove an element from.  
; elm: the string name of the element to be removed.
```

```

; base: the "." seperated string substructure of where to
;      find the element to be removed. If this element has
;      no "." in it then the particular element to be removed
;      will be at the highest level.
;
; Example:
;
; IDL> str = {a:1, b:{c:2, d:{e:3, f:4}},g:5}
; IDL> nstr = RemoveElm(str, 'f', SubStructure='b.d')
; IDL> print, nstr
; { 1{ 2{ 3}} 5}
;

```

```

FUNCTION RemoveElm, str, elm, SubStructure=base
; Catch any errors.
Catch, error_status
IF error_status NE 0 THEN BEGIN
    print, "Couldn't remove element of structure."
    Return, str
ENDIF

; Get the names of the elements in str
names = StrLowerCase(Tag_Names(str))
element = StrLowerCase(elm)

IF N_Elements(base) NE 0 THEN BEGIN
    pos = StrLowerCase(StrTrim(Str_Sep(base, '.'), 2))

    FOR i=0, N_Tags(str)-1 DO BEGIN
        type = Size(str.(i))
        IF type[N_Elements(type)-2] EQ 8 AND names[i] EQ pos[0] THEN
BEGIN
            ; Recurse into the structure.
            IF N_Elements(pos) GT 1 THEN BEGIN
                nb = String(Format='(100(A,:."))',pos[1:])
                substr = RemoveElm(str.(i), elm, SubStructure=nb)
            ENDIF ELSE $
                substr = RemoveElm(str.(i), elm)

            ; Add the substructure to the structure.
            IF N_Elements(newstr) EQ 0 THEN $
                newstr = Create_Struct(names[i], substr) $
            ELSE $
                newstr = Create_Struct(newstr, names[i], substr)
        ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
            ; Add the substructure to the structure.
            IF N_Elements(newstr) EQ 0 THEN $
                newstr = Create_Struct(names[i], str.(i)) $
        
```

```

ELSE $
    newstr = Create_Struct(newstr, names[i], str.(i))
ENDELSE
ENDFOR
ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
    FOR i=0, N_Tags(str)-1 DO BEGIN
        IF names[i] NE element THEN BEGIN
            IF N_Elements(newstr) EQ 0 THEN $
                newstr = Create_Struct(names[i], str.(i)) $
            ELSE $
                newstr = Create_Struct(newstr, names[i], str.(i))
        ENDIF
    ENDFOR
ENDELSE

Return, newstr
END

```

```

;
; This function will add or replace an element of a structure.
;
; NOTE: This will return an anonymous structure since named a
;       named structure cannot be resized once it is defined.
;
; str: the structure you want to remove an element from.
; elm: the string name of the element to be removed.
; val: the value to replace or add to the structure.
; base: the "." seperated string substructure of where to
;       find the element to be removed. If this element has
;       no "." in it then the particular element to be removed
;       will be at the highest level.
;
; Example:
;
;IDL> str = {a:1, b:{c:2, d:{e:3}},g:5}
;IDL> nstr = ReplaceElm(str, 'f', 4, SubStructure='b.d')
;IDL> print, nstr
;{      1{      2{      3      4}}      5}
;
```

FUNCTION ReplaceElm, str, elm, val, SubStructure=base

```

; Catch any errors.
Catch, error_status
IF error_status NE 0 THEN BEGIN
    print, "Couldn't replace element of structure."

```

```

    Return, str
ENDIF

; Get the names of the elements in str
names = StrLowerCase(Tag_Names(str))
element = StrLowerCase(elm)

IF N_Elements(base) NE 0 THEN BEGIN
    pos = StrLowerCase(StrTrim(Str_Sep(base, '.'), 2))

    FOR i=0, N_Tags(str)-1 DO BEGIN
        type = Size(str.(i))
        IF type[N_Elements(type)-2] EQ 8 AND names[i] EQ pos[0] THEN
BEGIN
            ; Recurse into the structure.
            IF N_Elements(pos) GT 1 THEN BEGIN
                nb = String(Format='(100(A,:,"."))',pos[1:*])
                substr = ReplaceElm(str.(i), elm, val, SubStructure=nb)
            ENDIF ELSE $
                substr = ReplaceElm(str.(i), elm, val)

            ; Add the substructure to the structure.
            IF N_Elements(newstr) EQ 0 THEN $
                newstr = Create_Struct(names[i], substr) $
            ELSE $
                newstr = Create_Struct(newstr, names[i], substr)
        ENDIF ELSE BEGIN
            ; Add the substructure to the structure.
            IF N_Elements(newstr) EQ 0 THEN $
                newstr = Create_Struct(names[i], str.(i)) $
            ELSE $
                newstr = Create_Struct(newstr, names[i], str.(i))
        ENDELSE
    ENDFOR
ENDIF ELSE BEGIN

    FOR i=0, N_Tags(str)-1 DO BEGIN
        IF names[i] NE element THEN BEGIN
            IF N_Elements(newstr) EQ 0 THEN $
                newstr = Create_Struct(names[i], str.(i)) $
            ELSE $
                newstr = Create_Struct(newstr, names[i], str.(i))
        ENDIF
    ENDFOR

    ; Add the new element
    newstr = Create_Struct(newstr, element, val)
ENDELSE

```

```
    Return, newstr  
END
```

```
;  
; This function will take a structure and return a string array where  
; each element represents a particular element in the structure. It  
; will recurse substructures as well.  
;  
; Example:  
; IDL> str = {a:1, b:{c:FltArr(2), d:{e:3, f:4}},g:5}  
; IDL> print, StructElmNames('str', str)  
; str.a str.b.c str.b.d.e str.b.d.f str.g  
;
```

```
FUNCTION StructElmNames, sname, struct
```

```
; Get a list of all of the elements in the structure.  
elms = StrLowCase(Tag_Names(struct))  
  
; Build a string array of elements and their values.  
FOR i=0L, N_Tags(struct)-1 DO BEGIN  
    ; Figure out what type of element we are dealing with.  
    s = Size(struct.(i))  
    type = s[N_Elements(s)-2]  
  
    IF type EQ 8 THEN BEGIN  
        ; The element was another structure so recurse.  
        IF N_Elements(outstr) EQ 0 THEN $  
            outstr = [StructElmNames(sname+'.'+elms[i], struct.(i))] $  
        ELSE $  
            outstr = [outstr,StructElmNames(sname+'.'+elms[i],  
struct.(i))]  
    ENDIF ELSE BEGIN  
        ; The element was something other than a structure.  
        IF N_Elements(outstr) EQ 0 THEN $  
            outstr=[sname+'.']+elms[i]] $  
        ELSE $  
            outstr=[outstr,sname+'.']+elms[i]]  
    ENDELSE  
ENDFOR
```

```
Return, outstr
```

END

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