
Subject: STRUCT_ASSIGN

Posted by [mallors](#) on Sat, 22 Aug 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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Hi all,

I have a structure defined as follows:

```
a = { f1: 0, f2: { x: 0, y: 0}}
```

I want to initialize the substructure f2 in a subroutine by having an instance of the f2 structure, then copying it field-by-field to a.f2. STRUCT_ASSIGN seemed ideal for this, except one problem - it doesn't work :-)

Assuming I have initialized an instance of f2 (called data) with some values

```
data = {x: 10, y: 20}
```

the statement is

```
STRUCT_ASSIGN, data, a.f2
```

This fails with the error

```
% STRUCT_ASSIGN: Expression must be named variable  
in this context: <STRUCT Array[1]>.
```

because a.f2 is an <Expression>, not a "named variable".

So, must I resort to field-by-field copy? The problem is that "a" is actually an object ("self"), which has some member variables that are large structures.

A field-by-field copy would be tedious, as each structure has on the order of 30 fields, or so.

I wanted to write a generic "set" method that will initialize the object's structures with some data.

If I must do a field-by-field copy, I would then have to have several "set" methods, each of which is specialized for each of the different structures within the object.

Regards,

-bob m.

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