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Thanks! - dirk

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```
a: findgen(n)}
```


- > the conflict. Can anyone tell me what the purpose
- > of having a named structure versus an anonymous
- > structure might be?

Named structures are much easier to use sometimes, since the **definition** of the structure is stored inside of IDL. So, if I make a structure like this:

```
a = {EMPLOYEE, name:", age:0, salary:0.0}
```

Then, I can get one of those "things" named EMPLOYEE like this:

```
b = {EMPLOYEE}
```

And IDL knows that b is that kind of a structure with three fields, name, age, and salary and it knows how those fields are defined. I don't have to reproduce this information each time I make another EMPLOYEE structure.

In general, use named structures for structures whose fields are not likely to ever change. Use anonymous structures for all the rest.

- > It doesn't seem like the
- > named structures are as versatile - you certainly
- > can't destroy them and re-fill them with new
- > information.

Anything that will be changing inside of a structure should be implemented with a pointer, regardless of whether you are using Named or Anonymous structures. If done this way, "re-filling" them is not difficult at all.

- > Sometimes.. i just want to pinch IDL.

Humm. I don't think we want to bring up this subject in **this** group. Please take this over to alt.comp.fetish. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting

Subject: Re: Conflicting Data structures
Posted by [dfabian](#) on Tue, 29 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <37778EB0.2CE6EEAA@acsys.it>,
Nando Iavarone <f.iavarone@acsys.it> wrote:
>
> -----94CC3193604DD96E7DB7AF78
> Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii
> Content-Transfer-Encoding: 7bit
>
> Dirk Fabian wrote:
>
>> Ideally, i would like the user (me) to be able
to choose a new data file, read it
>> in, and query it, but i keep get the
conflicting data structures error. Even
>> if i exit the program and rerun it, it seems
like that structure is still hanging
>> around. I can't figure out how or where to
zero it out! What am i missing?
>
> A few weeks ago I had a "Conflicting Data
structures". I tried to
> redefine a non anonymous structure. I had a file
with an header
> defining its dimension, and I use them to
allocate a structure array.
>

[Example snipped]

> To resolve the problem I had to use an anonymous
struct.
> --
> Nando Iavarone
>

This was it! I had defined the structure with a
name (i'm not sure why) and somehow that caused
the conflict. Can anyone tell me what the purpose
of having a named structure versus an anonymous
structure might be? It doesn't seem like the

named structures are as versatile - you certainly can't destroy them and re-fill them with new information.

Thanks much, Dirk

Sometimes.. i just want to pinch IDL.

Sent via Deja.com <http://www.deja.com/>
Share what you know. Learn what you don't.

Subject: Re: Conflicting Data structures
Posted by [Nando Iavarone](#) on Wed, 30 Jun 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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```
<HTML>
dfabian@my-deja.com wrote:
<BLOCKQUOTE TYPE=CITE>Can anyone tell me what the purpose
<BR>of having a named structure versus an anonymous
<BR>structure might be?&nbsp; It doesn't seem like the
<BR>named structures are as versatile - you certainly
<BR>can't destroy them and re-fill them with new
<BR>information.</BLOCKQUOTE>
A few examples on the use of a non anonymous structure can be found in
the idlhelp.
```

<P>I'm developing a great system,

and I think the non anonymous structures are useful from the
point of view of the architectural design.

[illegible]