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Subject: Re: Can an object's structure be redefined without restarting IDL

Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Fri, 02 Jul 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Frank Morgan wrote:

```
> If you're working interactively at top-level you can delete the structure
> and recreate it from scratch with new fields - like:
>
> x = {a:0, b:2.0}
> delvar, x
> x = {a:0, b:2.0, c:5.2}
>
> This avoids the data structure conflict. You can't use delvar in procedures
> though.
```

Because X is an anonymous structure,

```
x = {a:0, b:2.0}
x = {a:0, b:2.0, c:5.2}
```

will work just as well, and does not require DELVAR. You can redefine an anonymous structure on the command line, or in a procedure, function, or script.

Named structures however cannot be redefined; their definition is fixed until the end of the IDL session. For example, the second statement below is not allowed:

```
y = {TEST, a:0, b:2.0}
y = {TEST, a:0, b:2.0, c:5.2}
```

Cheers,  
Liam.

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Liam E. Gumley  
Space Science and Engineering Center, UW-Madison  
<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley>

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Posted by [Frank Morgan](#) on Fri, 02 Jul 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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```
delvar, x
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```

This avoids the data structure conflict. You can't use delvar in procedures though.

gabriel rodriguez ibeas wrote:

> Hi everybody.  
>  
> The problem I have, specially when working with a new object is tha if I  
> have to add a new field to it's structure, or change its name, IDL will  
> issue a error having to do with 'conflicting data structures' or  
> something.  
>  
> I think something similar occurs with COMMON blocks.  
>  
> Is there any way to tell IDL to forget about all user defined objecs or  
> common blocks without restarting it?

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Subject: Re: Can an object's structure be redefined without restarting IDL  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 02 Jul 1999 07:00:00 GMT  
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gabriel rodriguez ibeas (gabriel@gbt.tfo.upm.es) writes:

> Is there any way to tell IDL to forget about all user defined objecs or  
> common blocks without restarting it?

If IDL could "forget about" common blocks and named structures, we would \*all\* be in a world of trouble. :-(

Exiting IDL during development is a price we pay for having IDL work like we expect it to work once we get the program running.

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say working with named structures tends to enforce planned programming procedures. :-)

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Fanning Software Consulting

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Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

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