

How do I create a SAL annotation for a structure with a variable-length array?

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Some Windows structures end with an array of size 1. If you try to access any members of that array beyond the first, you may get a static analysis error.

```
typedef struct THINGGROUP
{
    DWORD NumberOfThings;
    THING Things[ANYSIZE_ARRAY];
};

void ProcessAllTheThings(_In_ const THINGGROUP* group)
{
    for (DWORD index = 0; index < group->NumberOfThings; index++) {
        // static analysis warning: possible index past end of array
        // when NumberOfThings >= 2
        ProcessOneThing(group->Things[index]);
    }
}
```

How do you tell the Visual Studio static analysis tool that the size of the `Things` array is specified by the `NumberOfThings` member?

You use the Field size annotation. The documentation doesn't really give an example of this case, so here you go:

```
typedef struct THINGGROUP
{
    DWORD NumberOfThings;
    _Field_size_(NumberOfThings)
    THING Things[ANYSIZE_ARRAY];
};
```

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