
Subject: Object-Oriented Programming Question
Posted by [Peter Stoltz](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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> Hi everyone-

I have finally gotten around to trying out object-oriented programming with IDL, and I have a question about data encapsulation.

I define an object structure A that has as one of its data members another object B (A has a B). So far as I can tell, when one creates an

instance of A, one cannot invoke the methods of class B through the syntax

```
IDL> a=obj_new('A')  
IDL> a.b->some_method
```

```
% Object instance data is not visible outside class methods  
% Execution halted
```

I got around this in the way one would with any other piece of member data, by defining a method function in A that accesses the private data, b.

Writing access methods is fine for most types of data, but I find it pretty clumsy

when the member data happens to be another object. What I would like is to have the

member data, b, defined as public. Before I write tons of code, I wanted to

see if someone else had a better way of mocking up access to member data class

methods as though that member class were public.

Thanks for any help. Also, is there a mailing list or anything specifically about object-oriented programming in IDL?

Peter
