Subject: Re: Copying IDL objects
Posted by J.D. Smith on Fri, 02 Oct 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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Mark Rivers wrote:
>
> I am trying to figure out how to make a copy of an instance of an IDL object.
>
> a = obj_new('myobj')
> b = a
> ; This does not do what I want, it makes a new reference to the same instance
>
> b = obj_copy(a) ; This is what I want
>
> The only way I can see how to do it is:
>
> pro my_obj::copy, out
>   out->set_a, self.a
>   out->set_b, self.b
>   ....
> end
>
> This means I have to write a set_X function for each field, and each object
> class needs its own version of the ::copy routine. This seems crazy.
>
> I seem to recall a post from a few months ago about some ways of generally
> getting/setting properties in IDL objects. Any ideas?
>

Here's something really dirty that will do the trick. Use it if
desperate:

```
function obj_copy, obj
  o=obj
  file=filepath('obj.sav',/TMP)
  save,o,FILENAME=file
  restore, FILENAME=file
  return,o
end
```

Does the job though. If you're really doing a lot of this, consider
setting up a small ram disk just for this purpose.

JD

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