Subject: Re: Copying IDL objects
Posted by davidf on Fri, 02 Oct 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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Mark Rivers (rivers@cars3.uchicago.edu) writes:

```
>  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
```

I thought Replicate might do it, but I see it also just
replicates the object reference, not the actual object.

```
>  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.
```

This seems like a lot of work. I think I would write this
function something like this:

```
   PRO My_Obj::Copy, out
   tags = N_Tags(self)
   For j=0,tags-1 DO out.(j} = self.(j)
   END
```

The only drawback is that N_Tags (and Tag_Names, too) will
only find the tags or fields in the outermost structure.
I do have a little recursive function on my web page to
find *all* the tags in an embedded structure definition.

   http://www.dfanning.com/tips/recursive_struct_tags.html

Cheers,

David

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