
Subject: Re: class definition problem

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 08 Dec 1998 08:00:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

J.D. Smith (jdsmith@astrosun.tn.cornell.edu) writes:

> With a possible addition of
>
> tmp={header, field1:0,field2:0,...}
>
> before the actual class definition. The point is that the class
> definition is a perfect place to define other class specific data
> structures (even if they aren't contained in the class!). I often use
> the __define procedure to set up special event structures used by the
> program.

I'm not so sure the class definition is the "perfect" place to define data structures used by the program, although I admit to sometimes using the technique. In fact, I would say this strategy has to be used with a bit of caution.

I foresee a problem in having a number of *different* named structures defined with the name HEADER. This could lead to messy problems depending upon which programs have been run first in the IDL session.

Safer, I think, to put *all* named structures in their own structure definition file. Then, of course, you have the problem of multiple files with the same name and which will be found first in the Path, etc. Perhaps the problem is six of one and a half dozen of the other, unless you have a specific directory on the path specifically for structure definition files. (No one I know would be so organized!)

The secret, I guess, is knowing what you are doing in the first place. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting

Phone: 970-221-0438 E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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