
Subject: Re: Local procedures and objects
Posted by [davidf](#) on Sat, 30 Oct 1999 07:00:00 GMT
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Karri Kaksonen (karri.kaksonen@picker.fi) writes:

```
> If you create two objects that both have a procedure with the
> same name:
>
> complexPlot__define.pro:
>   pro dummydata
>   ...
>
> histoPlot__define.pro:
>   pro dummydata
>   ...
>
> gui__define.pro:
>   function gui::Init,
>       self.complexPlot = obj_new('complexPlot')
>       self.histoPlot = obj_new('histoPlot')
>
> Then obviously "pro dummydata" is defined twice and you get
> problems.
>
> The interesting part is that the first time you start this
> everything appears normal.
>
> The second time you start it you cannot create a new
> instance of complexPlot.
>
> help, /heap is empty
> retail, reset etc. don't help
>
> It is just impossible to do a o=obj_new('complexPlot')
> even from a command line. You just get a null pointer
> without any error messages or clues of what goes wrong.
```

Humm. I can't seem to reproduce this behavior with a simple test case. I'm running IDL 5.2.1 on Windows NT. Do you have a simple case we could try?

```
> Is there a way to create procedures that are private
> to an object? It may be confusing to write private
> routines as public methods ( pro complexPlot::dummydata )
```

I think I may be using the opposite definition of "public" and "private" than you are, but in any

case, there is no strict notion of a "private" or "public" method in IDL. I typically think of procedures and functions that exist in an IDL subdirectory and which can be run from the command line as "public" and utility routines that are included with other program modules and are inaccessible from the IDL command line (without first compiling some other file) as "private".

I take some pain to make sure my "private" procedures and functions have unique names. Usually by giving them the "root" name of the command I'm trying to use: PRO DOIT_GETDATA, data, PRO DOIT_DISPLAY_DATA, etc.

IDL> DOIT

Cheers,

David

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