
Subject: Re: Inheritance query

Posted by [m218003](#) on Thu, 11 Nov 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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In article <3829BEB9.A3D2D3A6@astro.cornell.edu>,

"J.D. Smith" <jdsmith@astro.cornell.edu> writes:

```
>
> One more tip: make good use of the _REF_EXTRA mechanism for chaining up to
> methods which should return something:
>
> pro SubClass::GetProperty,VALUE=val,_REF_EXTRA=e
>   val=self.value
>   SuperClass::GetProperty,_EXTRA=e
> end
>
> This allows the SuperClass's GetProperty Method to put things into variables for
> return (like properties of the SuperClass, which aren't always just data
> member!), impossible with the _EXTRA mechanism.
>
> JD
>
```

Thanks JD for bringing this up! I am just experimenting a little bit with objects myself, and came across this _REF_EXTRA in -- I think it was Struan's -- code. What I don't understand is: why do you use _REF_EXTRA in the procedure header but then pass it on to SuperClass via _EXTRA? I tried to follow the online help on this but couldn't really find an answer. Is it simply syntax convention that one *always* uses _EXTRA when calling the routine that accepts _EXTRA or _REF_EXTRA keywords? Or is there more to it?

Cheers,
Martin

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