
Subject: Re: object newbie

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Fri, 11 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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

Mark Hadfield wrote:

>

- > Also object properties are not strictly tied to the class
- > structure: GetProperty/SetProperty keywords can represent tags in the class
- > structure or they can be dynamically interpreted, thus hiding the
- > implementation details.
- >

... to elaborate (because Chip calls himself an object newbie): I have an example where I store among other things an array of structures (actually objects of the same type) in the object (and I am in fact using a container for this). Say this structure array is named

"campaigns". In my GetProperty method I then have keywords to access

- the complete array as objects campaigns=campaigns
- the campaigns data as structures struc_campaigns=struc_campaigns
- only the campaign names cnames=cnames
- only the campaign dates cdates=cdates

etc.

Specific retrieval methods (usually functions then) enhance the flexibility of the access. E.g.

 GetCampaignDates(name=name) can be used to retrieve the dates for campaigns selected by name

 (including a pattern match) -- this is

something I would consider

 "value added feature" when you use objects.

The GetProperty method may in fact use the special retrieval methods to extract things. As long as you store only small amounts of data, it won't matter if you access the campaigns structure array several times and pass parts of it between methods. If you envision huge amounts of data you may want to think more carefully how often these arrays must be copied. I haven't dealt with these issues yet, but I would be happy to hear comments.

Cheers,
Martin

--

```

[[ Dr. Martin Schultz  Max-Planck-Institut fuer Meteorologie  [[
[[      Bundesstr. 55, 20146 Hamburg      [[
[[      phone: +49 40 41173-308      [[
[[      fax:  +49 40 41173-298      [[
[[ martin.schultz@dkrz.de      [[

```
