

---

Subject: Whither Object

Posted by [MKatz843](#) on Wed, 09 Apr 2003 22:48:21 GMT

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

---

What is the best way to define a new object variable such that:

A) if the object class exists, then it is loaded.

B) if the object class is unknown then we return `obj_new()` or set a failure flag somehow.

Given an object class name in a string, I'd like to make a flexible definition:

```
a = obj_new("MyClass")
```

Then if there is a `myclass__define.pro`, we assign the object, otherwise we assign `obj_new()`.

Perhaps I could create a new object-definition function with a success flag, like this

```
a = obj_new2("SchoolOnSaturday", noclass=noclass)
;-- noclass=1 if it failed.
```

To date, I've been using something like this

```
name = "MyClass"
CATCH, Error_Status

if (Error_status NE 0) then begin
    print, 'Error_status = ', Error_Status
    print, 'Error message: ', !ERROR_STATE.MSG
    print, 'No such class'
endif else begin
    a = obj_new(name)
endelse
```

That seems to work a little, but CATCH catches everything and I don't like using it. Another idea is that we could have a new function called `obj_test()` where

```
YesItExists = obj_test("MyClass")
```

Does such a function exist already? Has anyone out there solved this for themselves?

Thanks,  
M. Katz

---