
Subject: Re: Object based/oriented IDL ? Ever likely ?
Posted by [Paul Schopf](#) on Thu, 21 Mar 1996 08:00:00 GMT
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Julien Flack wrote:

>
> I am very impressed with a number of features of IDL. However, I think
> that its lacking support for structure (primarily data structures) due to
> its historical affiliation with Fortran (no flames please). This weakness
> becomes noticable when you reach a 3,000+ line application (IMHO).
>
> I think that a version of IDL using object based/oriented technology would
> be immensely powerful and would reach a far wider audience. Is there a
> desire for OO technology in the scientific community, or is Fortran still
> predominant ? Have RSI made any moves in this direction ?
>
> Any news, views and gossip welcome ...
>
> --
> Julien.

Am I missing something here? I enclose a snippet of a code which
I believe does have structures (Very similar to Fortran-90--no more flames, please)

```
; Grid_Index : an i,j pair
Gi = { GRID_INDEX , I: LONG(0), J:LONG(0) }

; Point_t: an (x,y) pair
pt = { POINT_T, X: 1.0 , Y: 1.0 }

; Poly8_t number of points, then space for up to 8 points
P8 = { POLY8_T, N: LONG(0), VERT: REPLICATE(pt,8) }

; Grid record, key index, Grid index, polygon, area
GR = { GRID_REC, ID : LONG(0), G : Gi , P: P8 , AREA : 1.0 }

plot,[-180,180],[-90,90],/nod

nrecs = LONG(0)
openr, iu, 'grid1.db', /f77,/GET_LUN
readu, iu, nrecs
rec = gr

for i=0,nrecs-1 do begin
    readu, iu, rec
    plots, rec.p.Vert(0:4).x,rec.p.Vert(0:4).y
```

```
endfor
```

```
free_lun,iu  
end
```

Now if you want to discuss encapsulation and inheritance, I agree, IDL is not OOP, but these are data structures, and they are very easy to use, and you can write functions for them, etc. etc.

BTW, a 3000 line IDL app is EXTREMELY long.

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