
Subject: Re: Are user-defined private methods possible?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 08 Jul 2009 17:59:05 GMT

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Paul van Delst writes:

> As the subject states, are user-defined private methods possible in IDL?
>
> I have some object methods that I want to be private to the class (like Init and Cleanup)
> but I can't find any info on how to do that in the IDL help. Once the methods in question
> are invoked (and, thus, compiled) in a public method, they're accessible from outside the
> class.

There is nothing like a "private" method in IDL.
However, there are some things you can do to keep
neighborhood eyes from oggling the babes in the
backyard pool.

For example, you can give your "private" methods
ugly names (I usually append an underscore to the
method name), and you can set the HIDDEN compile
option, so the casual user doesn't know it is there
when the object code is compiled:

```
PRO myobject::_myprivateMethod
  compile_opt HIDDEN
...
END
```

But nothing is going to stop a determined 14-year-old
with a good set of field glasses. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
