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Subject: Re: Object Programming

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Wed, 11 May 2011 19:11:29 GMT

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On 5/11/11 1:04 PM, David Fanning wrote:

> Folks,  
>  
> I guess it has been awhile since I did some extensive  
> object programming, but goodness, IDL doesn't like it  
> when you make mistakes!  
>  
> I suppose I crashed IDL 25-30 times already today, both  
> IDL 7.1.1 and IDL 8.1. It seems as though if put a breakpoint  
> in an object program and then do a .RESET from the IDL  
> command line that IDL is certain to crash.  
>  
> The error I was tracking down looked something like this:  
>  
>   FUNCTION foo, x, y  
>  
>       obj = Obj\_New('foo', x, y)  
>  
>       RETURN, obj  
>  
>   END  
>  
> Both routines are written in such a way that you can  
> pass one or two parameters. If I pass a single parameter:  
>  
>   IDL> obj = FOO(data)  
>  
> The object INIT method was reporting that I was  
> passing \*two\* parameters (I was checking with N\_Params())  
> and my program was getting into trouble because I assumed  
> y was defined in the code. It was actually passing an  
> undefined variable into the object INIT method. Is this  
> how IDL has always worked? I could have sworn I've done  
> this many, many times in the past without difficulty, but  
> perhaps I wasn't using N\_Params() to check parameters  
> in that code.

The strange problem with N\_PARAMS could be related to the automatic wrapper routine creation in IDL 8.0+. Where you getting 2 parameters with 7.1.1 also? Are you sure you were getting your FOO function, and not an auto-created wrapper for the FOO class? That auto-created wrapper might do something weird with positional parameters.

> Anyway, lesson for today: Don't make a mistake when you are

> writing IDL object programs!

Mike

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Modern IDL, A Guide to Learning IDL: <http://modernidl.idldev.com>

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