
Subject: Re: HASH with case insensitive keys versus a new DICT class

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Thu, 13 Dec 2012 04:37:02 GMT

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On Wednesday, December 12, 2012 10:10:51 PM UTC-5, Chris Torrence wrote:

> On Wednesday, December 12, 2012 12:09:34 PM UTC-7, Craig Markwardt wrote:

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>> On Wednesday, December 12, 2012 1:05:08 AM UTC-5, Chris Torrence wrote:

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>>> Okay, I'll bite.

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>>> I have a specific use case for this, where using a "dynamic" structure would be very helpful. Users have also been asking for dynamic, extendable structures for years.

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>>> One more data point: It would take less than a day to make this update. Adding a new widget system would take more than a day.

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>> I would go at it from the other end and make the structure access operator "." overloadable
from within the IDL language. Once that key language feature is added, then your particular use
case of HASH as the backing store can be wired up with a few lines of IDL code, and you can
choose whatever idiosyncracies you wish.
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>> Craig
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> Hi Craig,
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> Actually, it is already overloadable. As long as your class inherits from IDL_Object, then using a
"." will call GetProperty (if it is on the right-hand-side of the equals), or SetProperty (if it is on the
left-hand-side).
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> And you're right, it was indeed just a couple of lines of code. The trickiness comes in because
the IDL parser has already made the "field" name uppercase by the time it reaches the internal C
structure code. I really don't want to mess with the IDL parser.
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OK, then if I were you I would implement an **alternate** case-insensitive hash algorithm when you initialize a new hash, such that `h['MYSTRING']` returns the same as `h['mystring']`, as `h['MyString']`. Turn that flag on for your special class, and you're done. My point being, separate the "IDL variable"ness from the case-insensitiveness.

Craig
