
Subject: Re: Object Funkiness

Posted by [J.D. Smith](#) on Thu, 31 Jul 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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J.D. Smith wrote:

```
>
> OK OOP experts. Here's a conundrum...
>
> here's a procedure to test dynamic binding of methods in IDL...
>
> pro testdb
>   a=obj_new('eeke','a')
>   b=obj_new('eeke','b')
>   list=[a,b]
>   ran=fix(randomu(sd) ge .5)
>   list[ran]->Message, ran, 1-ran
>   obj_destroy,list
>   return
> end
>
> and the file eeke__define.pro contains:
>
> pro eeke::Message, ran, ran2
>   print,self.val,' random: ',ran, ran2
>   return
> end
> function eeke::Init,val
>   self.val=val
>   return,1
> end
> pro eeke__define
>   struct={eeke,val:''}
>   return
> end
>
> When I run it I get
>
> IDL> testdb
>
>   list[ran]->Message, ran, 1-ran
>                               ^
> % MESSAGE: Incorrect number of arguments.
> At: /u/jdsmith/idl/pro/mylib/testdb.pro, Line 6
> % Compiled module: TESTDB.
> % Attempt to call undefined procedure/function: 'TESTDB'.
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
>
> If I change the name of Message to something else, or take away the
```

> arguments to message in both the method definition and the call, the
> error disappears. Is 'message' somehow different than other names? I
> thought it could be shadowing the idl built-in message, and screwing up
> the dynamic binding, but I've tried tons of other built-in names (like
> 'print', 'xmanager', etc.) with nary a problem. Perhaps 'Message' is
> some IDL internal method for all objects... anyway it is very
> troublesome, and I'd like to figure out the cause. Any help would be
> greatly appreciated.
>
> JD
>
> P.S. Except for this problem, dynamic binding seems to work well.

I've found that this isn't limited to dynamic binding. Indeed, if you
just try:

```
a=obj_new('eek','aval')
```

and then, e.g.:

```
a->Message,1,0
```

you will still get the error. I've alerted the tech support crew at
RSI. At least a list of which method names we're not allowed to use
would be good. But, really, this bug needs resolution.

JD
