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Subject: Object Funkiness

Posted by [J.D. Smith](#) on Wed, 30 Jul 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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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.

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