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Subject: Re: Whither Object

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 10 Apr 2003 04:31:41 GMT

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M. Katz (MKatz843@onebox.com) writes:

- > What is the best way to define a new object variable such that:
- > A) if the object class exists, then it is loaded.
- > B) if the object class is unknown then we return obj\_new() or set a
- > failure flag somehow.
- >
- > Given an object class name in a string, I'd like to make a flexible
- > definition:
- >
- > a = obj\_new("MyClass")
- >
- > Then if there is a myclass\_\_define.pro, we assign the object,
- > otherwise we assign obj\_new().

I'd do something like this:

```
objectClass = "MyClass
```

```
filename = StrLowerCase(objectClass) + "__define.pro"
```

```
IF File_Which(filename, /Include_Current_Directory) EQ "" THEN $  
  thisObject = Obj_New() ELSE thisObject = Obj_New(objectClass)
```

Cheers,

David

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Subject: Re: Whither Object

Posted by [MKatz843](#) on Thu, 10 Apr 2003 17:23:21 GMT

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Thanks, David.

Based on David's suggestion, I have this new function

```
function obj_new2, class  
  filename = StrLowerCase(class) + "__define.pro"
```

```
return, (File_Which(filename, /Include_Current_Dir) EQ "") ? $  
  obj_new() : obj_new(class)  
end
```

Note: there was a slight keyword error in David's post (heaven forbid!).  
/Include\_Current\_Directory should be /Include\_Current\_Dir  
and the former actually caused an error (IDL 5.6, Mac OS X).

My only concern is that this may not work in an IDL runtime distribution  
which I am preparing. If everything is pre-compiled and nicely packaged,  
then there won't be a directory to look through, true?

I'm thinking that we need a new IDL feature to handle this. Something  
within OBJ\_NEW() itself. Ok, who has connections on the inside...

Perhaps something more elegant than this  
a = obj\_new(class, /ReturnNullObjectIfNotFound, error=error)

M. Katz

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