
Subject: Re: Saved Object Question

Posted by [penteado](#) on Thu, 20 Aug 2009 03:27:03 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Aug 19, 8:00 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> I had reason to use this little routine this afternoon,
> and ran into a complication. When one of the object's
> superclasses is a built-in IDL routine (in this case
> IDL_Container), the routine fails, complaining--rightly--
> that it can't find the undefined procedure/function named
> idl_container__define.
>
> The line it is complaining on is, of course, the CALL_PROCEDURE
> line.

Maybe I misunderstood the problem, but it seems to me that the names of the built-in classes should always be returned by a call to help. So instead of searching for __DEFINE in the output of routine_info(), Resolve_Obj could instead build a list of class names from the output of help:

```
help,/objects,/full,output=hobjs
;pick only the output lines with class names:
hobjs=hobjs[where(strpos(hobjs,'** Object class') ne -1,nclasses)]
classes=strarr(nclasses) ;array for the known class names
;extract the class name from the rest of the help information:
for i=0,nclasses-1 do classes[i]=(strsplit(hobjs[i],',',/extract))[3]
```

Which when I run in a clean session in IDL 7.1 gives me 63 class names.

Subject: Re: Saved Object Question

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 20 Aug 2009 20:52:01 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

pp writes:

> Maybe I misunderstood the problem, but it seems to me that the names
> of the built-in classes should always be returned by a call to help.
> So instead of searching for __DEFINE in the output of routine_info(),
> Resolve_Obj could instead build a list of class names from the output
> of help:
>
> help,/objects,/full,output=3Dhobjs
> ;pick only the output lines with class names:
> hobjs=3Dhobjs[where(strpos(hobjs,'** Object class') ne -1,nclasses)]
> classes=3Dstrarr(nclasses) ;array for the known class names

```
> ;extract the class name from the rest of the help information:
> for i=3D0,nclasses-1 do classes[i]=3D(strsplit(hobjs[i],',',/extract))[3]
>
> Which when I run in a clean session in IDL 7.1 gives me 63 class
> names.
```

Parse the HELP command!? Uugghh.

I don't know. I decided to solve it with a silent error handler and a GOTO statement. Probably a double uugghh. :-(

Anyway, it works for my purposes at the moment.

I have slightly re-written JD's routine, and added my own poor judgement, to some new code you can find here:

http://www.dfanning.com/programs/resolve_object.pro

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Saved Object Question
Posted by [penteado](#) on Thu, 20 Aug 2009 21:25:22 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Aug 20, 5:52 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

```
> I don't know. I decided to solve it with a silent
> error handler and a GOTO statement. Probably a
> double uugghh. :-(
```

Uugghh indeed. A simpler, GOTO-less way, would be to use file_which to check that defpro can be found.

Subject: Re: Saved Object Question
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 20 Aug 2009 22:03:09 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

pp writes:

- > Uggghh indeed. A simpler, GOTO-less way, would be to use file_which to
- > check that defpro can be found.

Yeah, I thought of that, too. I decided against it because if you have a large path, you would have to search the whole damn thing multiple times while you were looking for superclasses. I didn't actually test it, but it "felt" slow to me.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Saved Object Question
Posted by [penteado](#) on Thu, 20 Aug 2009 22:26:28 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Aug 20, 7:03 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Yeah, I thought of that, too. I decided against
> it because if you have a large path, you would have
> to search the whole damn thing multiple times while
> you were looking for superclasses. I didn't actually
> test it, but it "felt" slow to me.

It feels slow to me, too. Also, not much point in keep testing to avoid doing things when catch can do both the test and the intended operation, and thus might look nicer (if made GOTO-less).

Since call_procedure will do the same search that file_which would, using file_which first would mean search twice in the cases the file is found. But no disk searches would be done using the help output, just a quick string array search.

Subject: Re: Saved Object Question
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 20 Aug 2009 22:57:53 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

pp writes:

- > It feels slow to me, too. Also, not much point in keep testing to
- > avoid doing things when catch can do both the test and the intended
- > operation, and thus might look nicer (if made GOTO-less).
- >
- > Since call_procedure will do the same search that file_which would,
- > using file_which first would mean search twice in the cases the file
- > is found. But no disk searches would be done using the help output,
- > just a quick string array search.

Well, I might have to code it up and see which is faster on a day when I'd rather write IDL code than play tennis. In the meantime, it works, appears reasonably fast, and is something ugly I can point to when my grandchildren (some day!) ask me if I ever wrote ugly IDL code. ;-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
