

---

Subject: Re: Object SetProperty Not inherited

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 05 Jan 2012 01:41:51 GMT

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

---

godber writes:

> Using IDL 8.1 I am having a hard time setting properties on objects as the documentation suggests I can. Using the sample object from the documentation:

```
>
> PRO myObjectClass__define
> structure = { myObjectClass, $
>     PROPERTY1: 0L, $
>     PROPERTY2: ", $
>     INHERITS IDL_Object $
> }
> END
```

> I then instantiate and try to set a property as follows and I get an undefined method error

```
> IDL> o = Obj_New('myobjectclass')
> % Compiled module: MYOBJECTCLASS__DEFINE.
> IDL> o.property2 = 'foo'
> % Attempt to call undefined method: 'MYOBJECTCLASS::SetProperty'.
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

> The documentation suggests that subclassing IDL\_Object should make using the dot operator possible:

> "If your object inherits from the IDL\_Object class, you can set or change the object's properties after object initialization by calling the property directly using the dot operator:

```
> Obj.PROPERTY = value, ...
> "
```

> What am I missing?

You have to write the SetProperty and GetProperty methods for this object class. Then, you can use the "dot" operators to call the methods like you are doing.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

---

---

Subject: Re: Object SetProperty Not inherited  
Posted by [godber](#) on Thu, 05 Jan 2012 03:31:17 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Do they have to be implemented to explicitly return the properties as you show in your book? I had hoped it would inherit a generic getter and magically do it. If not, I guess I will look into implementing one. I will start looking for some introspective functionality.

Thanks for your reply, your book, and your continuous attention to IDL.

Austin

---

---

Subject: Re: Object SetProperty Not inherited  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 05 Jan 2012 15:45:27 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

godber writes:

- > Do they have to be implemented to explicitly return the properties as you show in your book?
- > I had hoped it would inherit a generic getter and magically do it.

SetProperty and GetProperty methods must be implemented explicitly.  
They do this "magically" only in marketing literature. :-)

- > Thanks for your reply, your book, and your continuous attention to IDL.

I appreciate the kind words. Thank you.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

---

Subject: Re: Object SetProperty Not inherited  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 05 Jan 2012 17:15:07 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

David Fanning writes:

- > SetProperty and GetProperty methods must be implemented explicitly.
- > They do this "magically" only in marketing literature. :-)

Mark Piper shows a "semi-magical" way of handing these methods in his IDL Data Point blog this morning, with a guest post by Ron Kneusel.

<http://idldatapoint.com/>

Having done some pioneering work in this area myself, I just offer a word of warning. Sometimes the more elaborate the trick, the more fragile the end program becomes. ;-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

---