
Question

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No error when referencing unset relationship object property

I've been writing ObjectScript for a long time and was a little surprised by this behavior so I'd like to understand what is going on.

I was doing a peer review on some source which had roughly the equivalent of the following line:

```
Set myRecord = ##class(MyObj.Record).%OpenId(id)
Set emailList = previousEmails_", "_myRecord.RecordGroup.EmailList
```

I flagged it for further testing because the code didn't check if RecordGroup was set and I knew that not all records were part of a Group so I was expecting that in cases where it wasn't set this line should throw an <INVALID OREF>

However, it turns out that I had forgotten that in the MyObj.Record class, RecordGroup is actually a one:many relationship:

```
Relationship RecordGroup As MyObj.MyGroup [ Cardinality = one, Inverse = Records ];
```

This results in the behavior that I didn't expect when there is no relationship set up, myRecord.RecordGroup.EmailList returns "" and not an error. In fact, myRecord.RecordGroup.PropertyNotEvenDefinedInMyGroupClassDef also returns "".

Can anyone explain this behavior? I am testing on 2016.1.

[#Object Data Model](#) [#ObjectScript](#) [#Caché](#)

Source

URL: <https://community.intersystems.com/post/no-error-when-referencing-unset-relationship-object-property>