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The spooky ascetic Property

During my recent work on [Tutorial - Working with %Query #1](#)

I met a Class Property that is quite different from its same-named relatives.

It is there since 'ever' but is rarely used, Related doc doesn't help so much.

A typical property in a class looks similar to this:

Property City as %String;

And you have a rich choice of additional settings to define it and provide an initial value.

If you save it, it gets validated and stored

Inside a persistent class, you get its content back

All well know features that don't require explanation to you as experts.

BUT:

If you declare a property to be MULTIDIMENSIONAL nothing is as before.

Property ghost [[MultiDimensional](#)];

It starts at the creation of your Class instance - it is just not there

It is created at the first assignment of any value.

As you see it has no DataType - but you miss nothing as it is never validated

And you won't find all data-type-related implicit methods as [LogicalToODBC](#) or similar.

On the other hand, you can use all the ObjectScript-Functions that are not available or allowed for standard typed Properties:

Modification with

- SET \$BIT()
- SET \$EXTRACT()
- SET \$LIST()
- SET \$PIECE().
- \$DATA()
- \$GET()
- \$INCREMENT()
- MERGE command
- KILL

You just work with it like with a normal local variable in ObjectScript.

Multidimensional is a bit misleading.

You can create local variable arrays, but it is no requirement.

The price you pay for this freedom is:

It is YOUR job to save/load it for persistence if required.

And to initialize and validate it with your own code,

[#Other](#)

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