

Can a COBOL procedural program be INVOKED with an array of objects instead of a standard CALL with USING?

If you prefer to use OOP syntax to invoke a COBOL procedural program and pass an array of objects as parameters rather than the standard COBOL CALL statement with USING, isCOBOL provides a feasible approach.

First, the isCOBOL class `com.iscobol.java.IsCobol` enables the INVOKE syntax. Second, the Java class `java.lang.Object[]` allows you to pass an array of objects.

An advantage of using an array of objects is that each element can reference a data item with a different type and size.

This program exemplifies it by using two parameters, one alphanumeric and one numeric with computational usage.

```
program-id. MAIN.

configuration section.
repository.
    class isc    as "com.iscobol.java.IsCobol"
    class arobj  as "java.lang.Object[]"
.

working-storage section.
01 par1    pic x(5).
01 par2    pic 9(5) comp.
01 rc      pic s99.

01 o-arobj object reference arobj.

procedure division.
main.
    move "aa" to par1
    move 1    to par2
    display "STANDARD CALL"
    call "PCALLED" using par1
                        par2
                        giving rc
    display "rc=" rc
```

```

move "bb" to par1
move 2 to par2

set o-arrobj = arrobj:>new(2)
set o-arrobj(0) = par1
set o-arrobj(1) = par2
display " "
display "INVOKE"
invoke isc "call" using "PCALLED"
           o-arrobj
           giving rc
display "rc=" rc

move "cc" to par1
display " "
display
"INVOKE with direct syntax, using previous array of objects"
move 3 to par2
perform 3 times
  set rc = isc:>call ("PCALLED", o-arrobj)
  display "rc=" rc
  compute par2 = par2 * 2
end-perform

display "END"
goback.

```

Once each element in the array of objects references a data item, you can modify the original data items and then pass the array to the program using any of the INVOKE OOP syntaxes shown in the sample program.

On the other hand, the called COBOL procedural program does not need anything special for this to work. The following is an example of it.

```

program-id. PCALLED.

```

```

working-storage section.

```

```

01 w1  pic x(5).
01 w2  pic 9(5).
01 rc  pic s99.

```

```

linkage section.

```

```

01 par1  pic x(5).
01 par2  pic 9(5) comp.

```

```
procedure division using par1 par2.  
main.  
  move par1 to w1  
  move par2 to w2  
  display "received: par1=" w1 " par2=" w2  
  compute rc = w2 + 1  
  goback rc.
```

To test the sample programs, compile them using: `iscc main.cbl pcalled.cbl`
Then, run the main program with: `isrun MAIN`

Online URL: <https://support.veryant.com/phpkb/article.php?id=349>