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Subject: Re: CATCH command

Posted by [steinhh](#) on Fri, 16 Oct 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <7055u7\$3ed\$1@nnrp1.dejanews.com> weitkamp@my-dejanews.com writes:

> Why doesn't CATCH catch type conversion errors? It works well with  
> other errors, e. g. calls to undefined routines or out-of-range  
> subscripts, but has no effect whatsoever on a line like  
>  
> PRINT, DOUBLE('abc')

Because a type conversion error isn't an *\*error\** that stops  
program execution in the absence of a catch statement. The  
message issued is only a warning, and the program continues.

> I wonder if this is a bug or a feature. I'm using IDL 5.0 on HP-UX 10.

Feature, I'm afraid. If someone had said at the time of IDL 1.0 (or  
some pretty early version) that the statement above *\*should\** have  
generated an error (stopping the execution), and gotten RSI to make it  
so, it could have been considered a bug now. But AFAIK nobody has  
argued strongly in this direction before. I suspect some of the (very  
very poorly written!) programs out there are counting on the  
conversion of 'abc' (or some other alphanumeric string) to a numerical  
zero...

Regards,

Stein Vidar

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