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Subject: Re: How to kill a procedure?

Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 07 Dec 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Med Bennett wrote:

> I am wondering how to kill an errant IDL procedure in Windows 95 without  
> killing the whole application and starting over. I sometimes make a  
> programming error which causes a procedure to go into an infinite loop.  
> It seems like I used to be able to hit ctrl-C in older versions of IDL,  
> at least in procedures that had some sort of print statement in them, to  
> exit out of a procedure. But recently when this has happened, nothing  
> seems to work and I have to hit ctrl-alt-delete and kill IDL entirely,  
> which is very annoying, especially if I have unsaved variables. Any  
> suggestions would be greatly appreciated!

I think you are out of luck here. And I seriously doubt whether you were ever able to interrupt a loop in IDL previously. Normally, something like a FOR loop is considered a single command to the IDL compiler. IDL will only look for interrupt characters at the end of each command.

I've written my own share of infinte loops, especially before I learned to \*ALWAYS\* cancel my CATCH error handler in my error handling code. Nothing like having errors in the error handling code to put IDL into a tight (and uninterruptable) spin. :-)

Cheers,

David

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