
Subject: Re: N_ELEMENTS and WHERE: Scalar or Array ?

Posted by [wmc](#) on Wed, 03 Feb 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan <steinhh@ulrik.uio.no> wrote:

> In article <36b5d66b.0@news.nwl.ac.uk> wmc@bas.ac.uk writes:

>> If this is necessary for legacy reasons, it might be possible to make
>> () and [] behave differently in this case? Possibly a missed
>> opportunity when [] came in!

> How'bout {} ? :-) I'm not *just* kidding. [] work as both array
> constructors and indexing brackets, so {} could work as both
> structure constructors and indexing brackets..

Hmm, having three different sorts of brackets to make arrays is
a bit of overkill. Anyway, {} might be needed for associative
arrays one day!

>>> array[NaN] = 5 ; Would be allowed, but does nothing
>>

>> This could well be possible as an easy-to-do work-around. In that
>> case, where would have to return NaN not -1.

> (Yes - though with a WHERE(.../nan) switch)

Hmm, that would be acceptable. Or an nwhere function (a bit less typing).

>> Incidentally, I've just realised how dangerous the out-of-bounds stuff
>> is:

>>
>> array([where(array eq false)])='stoat'
>>
>> assigns to the first element...

> And you can *bet* some program(mer)s out there are counting on
> exactly this as a *feature*! Sorry to say so, but...that's why
> you'd have to introduce a keyword switch in WHERE.

Well, they are very silly people then. Does anyone on this newsgroup want
to confess to using this "feature"?

-W.

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