
Subject: Re: AND statements

Posted by [Martin Schultz](#) on Mon, 08 Mar 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan wrote:

```
>
>
> True. The "problem" is when you want to write this up into
> a short and concise test with an ELSE part, you'll have to
> repeat the ELSE branch:
>
> IF NOT (A EQ 0) THEN IF B/A GT 5 THEN <SOMETHING> $
> ELSE <SOMETHING_ELSE> $
> ELSE <SOMETHING_ELSE>
>
> (Where the second SOMETHING_ELSE is the same as the first one)
>
> [...]
```

in short this is the same as

```
IF E1 THEN ( IF E2 THEN A ELSE B ) ELSE C
```

I don't think there are that many cases where B is really the same as C.

If so,

I find it often in error checking (is there a filename? is it empty?
etc.). In

these cases, it is often useful to "invert" the above to e.g.

```
IF NOT E1 THEN RETURN
IF E2 THEN A ELSE B
```

Shame on me(?), but sometimes I even think of and use GOTO statements in
similar

constructs. For skipping large convoluted IF THEN ELSE IF THEN ELSE
ENDIF IF ...

blocks, they are sometimes much more readable.

But it is true that I have often wished IDL had the abbreviated IF
clause. In my experience this is so common in modern computer languages
that it is rather dangerous *not* to have it available.

Regards,
Martin.

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