
Subject: Re: Surprising Odds and Ends
Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 15 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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Martin Schultz (martin.schultz@dkrz.de) writes:

```
> Therefore, the solution should be to free the pointer
> within your event handler routine BEFORE calling the
> cleanup routine.
>
> In plain words:
>
> CATCH, theError
> IF theError NE 0 THEN BEGIN
>   CATCH, /Cancel
>   Message,...
>   IF Ptr_Valid(info.thepointer) THEN Ptr_Free, info.thepointer
>   Cleanup
> ENDIF
```

Well, in plain words, this is right, although you can't (well, "shouldn't" is a more accurate word) call the Cleanup procedure yourself. The Cleanup procedure is called when the widget associated with it dies. The CATCH would more likely look like this:

```
CATCH, theError
IF theError NE 0 THEN BEGIN
  CATCH, /Cancel
  Message,...
  IF N_Elements(info) NE 0 THEN $
    Widget_control, event.top, Set_UValue=info, /No_Copy
ENDIF
```

```
> If the crash happens in a routine which you never expected to crash,
> well then you
> apparently caught an oversight by the programmer, and he should be told
> to fix the
> bug. In this case, a .reset_session usually helps ;-)
```

I'm a big fan of .Reset_Session, but I still see far too many people in my travels who exit IDL every time they crash a widget program because they have never heard of RETALL and they can't ever get a widget program running after one crashes! Getting those folks hooked on .Reset would be just as bad. :-)

My problem is that I'm trying to tell a story in

some logical order and the denouement doesn't happen until the hero gets burned almost beyond recognition by asking for user input to read a file. Error Handling is a nurse who brings him back to life and gives him reason to live again. But I'm several chapters away from all of that.

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say the working title of my new book is The IDL Patient. Catchy, don't you think. :-)

--

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