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Subject: Re: Catch problem

Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 02 Jan 2001 18:53:13 GMT

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ALAN FRAZIER (s007amf@news.wright.edu) writes:

```
> Recently, I started learning the catch procedure to help with some error
> checking. I typed the code word-for-word out of the IDL 5.3
> documentation:
>
> PRO ABC
>
> A = fltarr(10)
>
> CATCH, Error_status
>
> IF Error_status NE 0 THEN BEGIN
>   PRINT, 'ERROR INDEX: ', Error_Status
>   PRINT, 'ERROR MESSAGE: ', !ERR_STRING
>   A = FLTARR(12)
>   ENDIF
>
> A[11] = 12
>
> HELP, A
>
> END
>
> to help me learn this command. However, this code does not seem to
> execute correctly. As far as I can tell, the code causes some sort of
> infinite loop on the if statement. Any ideas what I am doing wrong? I am
> using IDL 5.4 on a Mac.
```

There are two ways you can get into an infinite loop in a CATCH error handler. (Well, two ways that I am intimately familiar with.) First, you can have errors in your error handling code. (Very, very bad, this one.) Or, you can fail to fix the error in your error handling code and continue to make the same error over and over again. (I call this the "same spouse, different name" syndrome.)

The secret to solving both of these problems is to cancel the CATCH as the *FIRST* thing you do in the error handling code (and pray that you can at least spell *this* line correctly!). The second thing to do is to exit the code (usually, unless you really do know how to catch errors, in which case my hat

if off to you).

I like to use the ERROR\_MESSAGE program on my web page for error handling, because it prints out a nice message that tells me where the actual error occurred. This is handy if you want to fix the error. :-)

```
CATCH, theError
IF theError NE 0 THEN BEGIN
  CATCH, /Cancel
  ok = Error_Message(/Traceback)
  RETURN
ENDIF
```

You can find Error\_Message here:

[http://www.dfanning.com/programs/error\\_message.pro](http://www.dfanning.com/programs/error_message.pro)

Cheers,

David

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