
Subject: Consensus on error handling with DLMS

Posted by [Randall Skelton](#) on Thu, 26 Apr 2001 17:38:21 GMT

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Hi all,

I've more or less finished writing an IDL interface to Postgres and I'm now in the debugging stage. I thought I'd take a poll to see what people think of appropriate error returns. In this library I have a variety of function returns... integers, floats, doubles, strings, complex structures and so forth. For integer returns, I usually default to giving the user a message with the handle IDL_MSG_INFO in IDL_Message and returning -1 on failure. Is there a good protocol for signifying an error in strings, structures and arrays? Some of my default string returns are themselves null strings (indicating that no data or message was found) so it wouldn't be wise to simply return a null string on error. I am also very reluctant to return a float -1.0000 as testing for this can lead to problems with IEEE number definitions in C. For the moment, I am using the IDL_MSG_LONGJMP to signal an error in all routines that don't return an IDL integer. It stops the interpreter immediately (which isn't necessarily bad) as it signifies a major fault. Comments?

Thanks,
Randall
