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Subject: Re: Error handling and tracebacks

Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Thu, 22 Jul 2004 04:52:31 GMT

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>> How do I disable tracebacks associated with the message procedure?

>

>

> My goodness, you are having a tough day, today. :-)

>

It's not very often you get two IDL questions from completely different ends of the spectrum at the same time on the same day, but it happens. Oh, well. Part of the business, I suppose. :-)

> I think your only hope here is to CATCH the errors  
> thrown by MESSAGE yourself, then prune the error traceback  
> (which you maybe save in a string variable, with the OUTPUT  
> keyword) and pass it on to the user:

>

> Catch, theError

> IF theError NE 0 THEN BEGIN

>    Help, /Traceback, Output=helpString

>    Prune, helpString

>    Print, helpString

> ENDIF

I played with catching the error some, but I really didn't like results too much. I just don't have enough time to play with things. Really, the problem is of no concern to me, but it seems that I'm going to have to go on an end user education project. The problem is that some people using my stuff are too quick to think that a bug has come up in my code.

When they see the traceback, 9 times out of 10, they don't even look at the message I put out at the top because they think that some crazy bug caused something screwy to happen. (Almost all of my IDL programs are on the command line, BTW) Invariably, they have simply mistyped something in the call into my code.

In short, I thought I might rid myself of this dilemma if I could somehow show them the error message with no trace. This is more \*normal\* to them and as such they'd actually \*read\* the error message like they should have in the first place.

Sigh.

> I don't have any idea what the PRUNE procedure  
> might look like. :-(

Might it look like the PLUM procedure after having sat out in the sun

too long?

-Mike

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