
Subject: Re: A simple IF statement question

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 14 Feb 2005 15:11:38 GMT

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David Fanning writes:

> Andry William writes:

>

>> I am using IDL 6.1 on Linux SUSE. I am writing a simple code using the

>> IF statement and am wondering about the following result:

>>

>> IDL> IF 1 THEN PRINT, '1' ELSE PRINT, 'None'

>> 1

>> IDL> IF 2 THEN PRINT, '2' ELSE PRINT, 'None'

>> None

>> IDL> IF 19 THEN PRINT, '19' ELSE PRINT, 'None'

>> 19

>> IDL> IF 24 THEN PRINT, '24' ELSE PRINT, 'None'

>> None

>> IDL> IF 0 THEN PRINT, '0' ELSE PRINT, 'None'

>> None

>>

>> Am I wrong when I expect the IF statement to return always TRUE if the

>> condition is not 0 (I mean something like 1,2,3,4,....)?

>

> Yes, you are wrong. :-)

>

> Here is an article you might want to read:

>

> http://www.dfanning.com/code_tips/bitwiselogical.html

It has been pointed out to me that the article is a bit deficient in that it doesn't mention the LOGICAL_PREDICATE compiler option. If you set:

```
COMPILE_OPT LOGICAL_PREDICATE
```

Then 0 is FALSE and everything else is TRUE. That probably makes more sense to *everyone*! :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
