Subject: Re: main or procedure
Posted by Conor on Wed, 20 Jun 2007 15:42:09 GMT
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On Jun 20, 10:56 am, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> Marshall Perrin writes:
>> It feels odd to disagree with the great Dr. Fanning, but in this case
>> I want to offer a counter-suggestion to the above advice.
>
> Actually, we probably don't disagree. I've pretty much
> given up EVER using ON_ERROR,1. If I need error handling,
> I typically use a CATCH.
>
> My impression was that the person asking the question
> was not very knowledgeable about IDL. I've learned it is
> better to start with the simple answers, rather than laying
> the whole sordid picture out all at once. I guess we could ask
> him. Sukye, did you understand ANYTHING Carsten Lechte said?
>
>> For the original poster: The reason it returned automatically to the
>> top level in your case is that you compiles a main routine (i.e.
>> a file with IDL code but no "PRO whatever" or "FUNCTION whatever")
>> while inside a procedure or function. That, you can't do.
>
> I don't think this is what happened, but perhaps it is the
> message that is confusing. This is the message
> you get if you crash in any IDL procedure or function
> and are stopped somewhere other than at the main level
> and you try to compile the same procedure or function that
> failed. I'd say this is 95% certain what has happened here.
> A simple RETALL would eliminate the message, but, of course,
> all variables created at that level would be lost. The good
> news, of course, is that you will re-discover all those
> variables you ACTUALLY created at the main level. :-)
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:http://www.dfanning.com/
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

That's what I assumed happened as well. When I first started using IDL I had the exact opposite problem. I'd create all my variables and what-not on the main level, and then my program would crash and all my variables would dissappear. I had no idea what was going on, and no

one else I asked seemed to know either. It really irked me because I was working with some large text files, and loading the data into IDL was a particularly lengthy process (mainly because I had written a horribly inefficient program that read the files into IDL). Every time my program crashed I had to wait another 5 minutes for my data to reload. Then, once it was done reloading, I would fix the bug and recompile the program, bringing myself back to the main level and restoring all the data I thought I had "lost" while I was in the program scope. Of course I had already re-loaded the data, so I didn't notice my missing data magically re-appearing when I re-compiled my program, and I didn't know what the "procedure compiled while active: returning' message meant, so I never realized what was happening. I continued in this fashion for a couple weeks before I finally figured out what was going on :)
