

---

Subject: re: Bug in SWITCH - ELSE: statement?  
Posted by [Jean H.](#) on Thu, 11 Oct 2007 15:49:56 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

> Hi everyone,  
>  
> can someone explain this to me please?  
>  
>> From the IDL helpfile for SWITCH: (I'm using V6.4)  
>  
> The ELSE clause of the SWITCH statement is optional. If included, it  
> matches any selector expression, causing its code to be executed. For  
> this reason, it is usually written as the last clause in the switch  
> statement. **\*\*The ELSE statement is executed only if none of the  
> preceding statement expressions match.\*\*** If an ELSE clause is not  
> included and none of the values match the selector, program execution  
> continues immediately below the SWITCH without executing any of the  
> SWITCH statements.

The help file is a bit cumbersome to understand. The preceding paragraph says:

If a match is found, program execution jumps to that statement and execution continues from that point. Whereas CASE executes at most one statement within the CASE block, **\*\*\*SWITCH executes the first matching statement and any following statements in the SWITCH block\*\*\***. Once a match is found in the SWITCH block, execution falls through to any remaining statements. For this reason, the BREAK statement is commonly used within SWITCH statements to force an immediate exit from the SWITCH block.

In other words, If no conditions are met, the Else statement is applied... but if a condition is met and you are not using a Break statement, then everything beyond this condition, including the Else statement, is applied..

Jean

---