Subject: Re: NaN Magic or Why Me?!
Posted by Mort Canty on Thu, 15 Nov 2007 07:34:53 GMT

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Peter Mason schrieb:
> I'll add four cents to the kitty.
>
> One of the people I work with had frequent but unpredictable crashes with
> iTools on his Dell laptop.   (Utter crashes right out of IDL, as with
> invalid memory access.)   We couldn't repeat these crashes on other PCs
> around here.   Coyote-like bug, aside from the lack of subtlety.   Turns out
> he needed a video driver update.   That fixed it.
>
> I have noticed a rare floating-point bug with CISCO VPN Client version 4.x.
> With this client running and connected, I get the occasional floating-point
> corruption in my program.   (A regular app, not some kind of network thing.)
> I'm pretty sure it's caused by VPN client although I don't know exactly how.
> My program is all in C - no IDL - but I would expect the same thing applies
> to any code that gets stuck into a serious amount of FP calculations.   The
> problem seems fixed in CISCO VPN client version 5.
>
> Peter
>
>

Thanks very much, Peter. As it happens I do run CISCO VPN 4.8 on the
computer that's giving the problem. I'll check that and also the video
driver. I'm now sure it's not an IDL programming error. I can generate
the NaNs in any intensive FP calculation with large arrays.

And thanks to everyone else who passed on their good advice (including
David's plug for the Mac - one never knows ...)

Mort Canty