
Subject: Re: Locked-up workbench: ctrl-C doesnt work

Posted by [elwood](#) on Fri, 28 Mar 2008 04:51:42 GMT

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On Mar 27, 11:15 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

> elwood writes:

>> More than half a dozen times today my students managed to

>> irretrievably hang the IDL workbench.

>> They were running a while loop within their program.

>> No syntax error was issued, but when they ran the program it would not

>> execute.

>> And the idl command-line prompt went grey.

>

>> ctrl-c did not get them out of this state

>> reset perspective did not get them out of this locked-up state

>

>> I wish I could give you more hints, but its unclear what is causing

>> this problem.

>> It is not an infinite loop.

>

> How do you know? That's what it sounds like to me. See below.

>

>> Out of desperation they killed the workbench entirely by clicking on

>> the little close x for the window.

>> And then went to Windows XP task manager and killed the idl task.

>

>> Has anyone else noted this problem?

>> Is there another method of getting IDL out of a locked-up state?

>

> I'm no huge fan of the Workbench, but this sounds strange.

> Honestly, it sounds more like bad CATCH error handling to me. Does

> everyone have a CATCH, /CANCEL as the first line of their

> CATCH error handler?

>

> I've taught several classes on the Workbench, and I haven't

> run into problems like this, although one guy was rebooting

> all the time. He never let me see the reason for that, so

> I assume it was something he was doing, not IDL.

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

> --

> David Fanning, Ph.D.

> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)

> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

I'm reasonably sure its not an infinite loop
because I had one guy add bunches of print statements,
including some that were placed prior to any of his loops,
immediately after the program started.
None of them would print or execute.
The last guy who had this problem did not have any error catching
statements in his program.
That was one of my first suspicions as well!
Perhaps I should in fact have them ADD in some error handling to see
if catches what ever
is causing this problem.

It has never happened to me personally either!

My one and only clue is that he did have some accumulated syntax
errors at one point
and had not run retail.
He just kept editing and re-executing his program until everything
completely locked up.
