
Subject: Re: Hoping ON_IOERROR would catch errors in IDLs subroutines.

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Tue, 03 Feb 2009 23:40:09 GMT

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M. Katz wrote:

> I'm trying to understand why ON_IOERROR doesn't catch an error that
> occurs with writing an image to the disk. Here's an example where I
> attempt to write an image to an intentionally nonexistent folder (see
> below).
>
> When I run the program it breaks at WRITE_PNG instead of jumping down
> to BAD_IO. However, if I change the WRITE_PNG to an OPENW, then it
> catches the error and redirects the flow the BAD_IO.

IDL must not be considering errors in WRITE_PNG "IO errors".

> What is the proper protocol to catch file errors in routines that IDL
> provides, and handle them in the parent procedure?

In general, CATCH catches errors in user or system routines. Try:

```
pro error_test1

  catch, error
  if (error ne 0L) then begin
    catch, /cancel
    print, 'i caught the error!'
    return
  endif

  nonexistent_folder = '/pink/elephant/'
  write_png, nonexistent_folder+'x.png', [[0b,1b],[1b,0b]]
  print, 'All is well.'
end
```

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