
Subject: Re: IDL & ENVI error: WIDGET_CONTROL: Invalid widget identifier: 17
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 27 Mar 2009 17:30:19 GMT
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robintw writes:

> I've tried changing the envi command to that, and it still doesn't
> seem to work. I've altered parts of the program now in a way which
> means it takes quite a while to run. Therefore, I frequently have to
> exit it using the Terminate command within the IDL Workbench. After
> I've used that command it always gives the error I mentioned in the
> previous post. Presumably this isn't expected behaviour when using the
> Terminate command? Any other ideas?

OK, then I think the problem is the Terminate command (which I didn't even know existed!). I think what happens is that things immediately get "terminated" in a way that is not foreseen by the software. So when the software goes to do something as innocuous as destroy its own top-level base, for example, with a command like this:

```
Widget_Control, state.tlb, /Destroy
```

That widget is already destroyed, so it throws the "invalid widget identifier" error you are experiencing. I think you can probably expect this if you "terminate" a program in an unexpected way, since programming for the possibility of this kind of error is really WAY out of the question. :-)

I think I might try a Cntl-C and see if you can stop the program that way, followed by a .Reset maybe. I can't even imagine all the havoc that could ensue with a "Terminate" command. How come this button doesn't have a mushroom cloud icon on it?

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
