Subject: Re: A strange error with WHERE
Posted by Paul Van Delst[1] on Fri, 31 Jul 2009 20:44:56 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:
> Paul van Delst writes:
>
>> I enjoy watching you grok people's problems from afar. It's quite instructive when
>> contemplating debugging in general.
>
> Speaking of which. I have a new book on my desk.
>
>   Debugging: The 9 Indispensable Rules for Finding
>   Even the Most Elusive Software and Hardware Problems
>   by David J. Agans

Here's two more for general consumption:

 http://www.pragprog.com/titles/ahptl/pragmatic-thinking-and- learning
http://www.pragprog.com/titles/pbdp/debug-it

The first one was a good ego-deflater (which is good for debugging) .... just what one
needs to overcome a creeping superiority complex where one believes they know what they're
doing! Just when you think you're becoming an expert, you realise you're still an advanced
beginner[*]. Sigh. Oh well.

The second one I'm still saving up for.

> I haven't finished reading it yet, so I haven't reviewed
> it. But you could probably read it in one or two sittings
> and probably gleen something useful from it.
>
> A lot of it is what I think of as common sense, but I'm
> always surprised to see how uncommon it is when I work
> with other programmers. ;-)

I hear ya. But, we (IDL programmers I mean) are at an advantage with respect to folks
using other languages because we *have* to think illogically to make *any* sense of it
all.... :o)

cheers,

paulv

[*] A former boss of a boss of mine once defined four stages of professional development:
   1) Unconscious incompetence.
   2) Conscious incompetence.

3) Conscious competence.
4) Unconscious competence.
Needless to say it caused a bit of uproar at the time since some people took offense at being labeled incompetent. The pragmatic-thinking-and-learning book above has a more politically correct list:
1) Beginner
2) Advanced beginner
3) Proficient
4) Expert
where Expert == the sort of folks that get invited to speak at conferences in exotic locales, all expenses paid.

But I still prefer the first list. :o)