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Subject: Warning: IDL 8.0 alters the behaviour of existing valid programs without any notice!

Posted by [svhhaugan](#) on Wed, 18 Aug 2010 11:59:57 GMT

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```
pro test,data
  catch,error
  if error ne 0 then begin
    catch,/cancel
    print,"Guess that didn't work"
    return
  end
  data[where(data eq min(data)-1)] = 50
end
```

Perfectly valid code, makes sense in IDL 7.1 although the catch,error part would most likely be done "with human intervention".

Now try to figure out what happens in IDL 8.0. Yep, no crash, and your data is altered in a way you could not possibly have intended at the time of writing the program.

Please, please, please tell me I am just missing the spot in the release notes where it says "this is how you turn this behaviour off by default, and back on only for code that has been manually inspected or written specifically for IDL 8.0". Fix it in 8.0.1! This is serious stuff, people could get hurt when you introduce semantic changes like that to a programming language!

And imagine the number of irreproducible science papers that could result from this!

Sysadmins out there that upgrade to IDL 8.0: Pass on this warning!

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