

---

Subject: Re: LIST "bug": .Remove on an empty list  
Posted by [penteado](#) on Fri, 17 Dec 2010 17:35:07 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Dec 14, 1:35 pm, Paul van Delst <paul.vande...@noaa.gov> wrote:  
> Thinking about it a little more, I think I'm biased against IDL and thus making bad design  
decisions (sorry!). If there  
> was a list "Empty" or "IsEmpty" method (like ruby's "empty?" method...for both arrays/lists and  
hashes), I would be more  
> tempted to use it,  
>  
> if ( l.isempty() ) then ...return, handle error, whatever...  
>  
> as opposed to the current IDL idiom,  
>  
> if ( n\_elements(l) eq 0 ) then ...return, handle error, whatever...

I just remembered that there is not much need for IsEmpty, as the  
lists currently already overload their truth value (to the opposite;  
an empty list evaluates to false):

```
IDL> l=list()
IDL> if (~l) then print,'empty list' else print,'list has
',n_elements(l),' elements'
empty list
IDL> l.add,9
IDL> if (~l) then print,'empty list' else print,'list has
',n_elements(l),' elements'
list has      1 elements
```

And I find "if (~l) then ..." much more convenient than "if  
(l.isempty()) then ...".

---