

---

Subject: Re: Non-intuitive result with !Null in Where()  
Posted by [Heinz Stege](#) on Wed, 21 Aug 2013 23:51:31 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Wed, 21 Aug 2013 09:42:25 -0700 (PDT), Matthew Argall wrote:

> This is not what I expected. If there are no elements, how can "count" be non-zero? I was hoping that Where() would return !Null and "count" would be 0.

```
>
> IDL> print, n_elements(!Null)
>      0
> IDL> print, where(!Null ne 0, count)
>      0
> IDL> print, count
>      1
> IDL> print, where(!Null ne 0, count, /NULL)
>      0
> IDL> print, count
>      1
> IDL> print, !Null[0]
> % Expression must be an array in this context: !NULL.
> IDL> print, (!Null)[0]
> % Variable is undefined: <UNDEFINED>.
```

```
>
>
> The Where function is telling me I can access !Null at element 0, but I cannot.
```

```
>
This is not true. In your words, the Where function is telling you,
that the expression !null ne 0 has one element, which is not equal 0.
And the position of this element is 0.
```

```
IDL> expr=!null ne 0
IDL> help,expr[0]
<Expression>  BYTE    =  1
```

Heinz

---