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Subject: Re: How to make IDL be quiet

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2003 02:30:06 GMT

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mwallace.removethismunge@swri.edu.invalid writes:

> I'm quite new to IDL, so hopefully this will be a simple question for  
> the rest of you.  
>  
> How can I prevent IDL from printing out all the nominal messages such as  
> "% Compiled Module: FOO" or "% Loaded DLM: BAR"? I'd rather that IDL  
> just be quiet and only report something to the terminal if there were a  
> serious error or if I use a print statement from within my program.  
>  
> I also have a couple places in my code where an error could be expected.  
> In those particular cases, I still want the error handling on and  
> !ERROR\_STATE to be filled with the correct values, but I don't want to  
> show this error since I will be handling it and the program will  
> continue execution. So, in short, how do I get control over what's  
> written to the terminal?

I'm sure you *\*think\** this is what you want to do.  
But I'm also sure that if you succeed in doing it,  
it won't be long before you see what a really bad  
idea this is. :-)

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say after spending 3 hours in an iTool  
chasing down strange behavior that turned out to be  
a silent Catch that I don't have too much sympathy for  
silence. :-(

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Phone: 970-221-0438, IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

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Subject: Re: How to make IDL be quiet

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2003 03:44:54 GMT

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David Fanning <davidf@dfanning.com> writes:

> mwallace.removethismunge@swri.edu.invalid writes:  
>

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>> the rest of you.  
>>  
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> I'm sure you \*think\* this is what you want to do.  
> But I'm also sure that if you succeed in doing it,  
> it won't be long before you see what a really bad  
> idea this is. :-)  
...  
> a silent Catch that I don't have too much sympathy for

Despite David's current peevishness, CATCH is definitely a strong contender for what you want. David is right though, you need to have pretty good policy regarding how errors get handled and get passed up the chain.

Other contenders are ON\_ERROR and ON\_IOERROR. ON\_ERROR doesn't give you much control; sometimes ON\_IOERROR is required to catch I/O errors I believe (and "I/O" includes typecasts).

As to your first question, there is some newfangled compile option which can turn off the "compiled" messages, but I don't bother. Eventually you learn coping skills.

Craig

--

-----  
Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D.    EMAIL: craigmnet@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu  
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response  
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Subject: Re: How to make IDL be quiet  
Posted by [marc schellens\[1\]](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2003 12:18:42 GMT  
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Michael Wallace wrote:

> I'm quite new to IDL, so hopefully this will be a simple question for  
> the rest of you.  
>  
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> "% Compiled Module: FOO" or "% Loaded DLM: BAR"? I'd rather that IDL  
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> show this error since I will be handling it and the program will  
> continue execution. So, in short, how do I get control over what's  
> written to the terminal?  
>  
> Mike W.  
>

Check out the !QUIET system variable.

HDH,  
marc

---

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Subject: Re: How to make IDL be quiet

Posted by [Pepijn Kenter](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2003 12:21:55 GMT

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Michael Wallace wrote:

> I'm quite new to IDL, so hopefully this will be a simple question for  
> the rest of you.  
>  
> How can I prevent IDL from printing out all the nominal messages such as  
> "% Compiled Module: FOO" or "% Loaded DLM: BAR"? I'd rather that IDL  
> just be quiet and only report something to the terminal if there were a  
> serious error or if I use a print statement from within my program.  
>

!quiet=1

This system variable turns informational messages on/off.

HTH, Pepijn Kenter.

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Subject: Re: How to make IDL be quiet  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2003 13:19:03 GMT  
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Marc Schellens writes:

> Check out the !QUIET system variable.

Maybe this isn't \*quite\* like doctor assisted  
suicide, but it certainly has that flavor to it. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.  
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Subject: Re: How to make IDL be quiet  
Posted by [dcw\\_yip](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2003 19:21:18 GMT  
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On a similar note, is there anyway to have IDLDE call "heap\_gc" and  
not "heap\_gc, /verbose" everytime I stop a program with ctrl-r? It  
takes it minutes to print out all that stuff I never look at.

David

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Subject: Re: How to make IDL be quiet  
Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2003 20:08:21 GMT  
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- > pretty good policy regarding how errors get handled and get passed up
- > the chain.
- >
- > Other contenders are ON\_ERROR and ON\_IOERROR. ON\_ERROR doesn't give
- > you much control; sometimes ON\_IOERROR is required to catch I/O errors
- > I believe (and "I/O" includes typecasts).

Thanks to everyone who's responded (and so quickly too)! !QUIET, ON\_ERROR, ON\_IOERROR, CATCH, and message seem to be the set of commands I want.

And David, I understand your concern that turning off messages is a Bad Idea(TM). And I completely agree with you on this. My original question was not asked just so I could turn off error handling and ignore everything, but so that I could do my own error handling and my own messages. Yes, I am taking on an extra responsibility by doing this and accept this responsibility.

- > Eventually you learn coping skills.

Tell me about it! Isn't it enough to cope with just the language in general?! I'm a software developer and the past several years I've been mainly working with Java, a little C/C++, and a couple other languages.

I've started learning IDL since that's the language of choice of the physicists I work with and I need to start incorporating the advanced plotting capabilities into my other software. It was a little culture shock laying eyes on IDL for the first time -- so-called 'objects' and pointers just made me grimace. But, I'm slowly learning how to cope. ;-)

Mike W

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Subject: Re: How to make IDL be quiet  
Posted by [dcw\\_yip](#) on Thu, 18 Dec 2003 19:37:11 GMT  
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Mike:

I'm there with you man. I feel your pain. But there is light at the end of my tunnel. I wake up everyday and check off one more day until we switch the project over to C++ and into the 21st century.

David

Michael Wallace <[mwallace.removethismunge@swri.edu](mailto:mwallace.removethismunge@swri.edu).invalid> wrote in message news:<[vu1dtmcgncq86@corp.supernews.com](mailto:vu1dtmcgncq86@corp.supernews.com)>...

- > Tell me about it! Isn't it enough to cope with just the language in

> general?! I'm a software developer and the past several years I've been  
> mainly working with Java, a little C/C++, and a couple other languages.  
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