
Subject: "Variable is undefined: conversion destination variable."
Posted by [MarioIncandenza](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2007 00:42:46 GMT
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Hi IDL folks,

Exciting! A First-Time IDL Error!

This is a variant, of sorts, on the problem IDL has with "functions that return UNDEFINED" (http://groups.google.com/group/comp.lang.idl-pvwave/browse_thread/thread/954c06bc4c1714/3682f2ba899b68d2?lnk=gst&q=undefined+return&num=1&hl=en#3682f2ba899b68d2)

Like that older problem, this one halts execution with no indication of where the error occurred:

```
% Variable is undefined: Conversion destination variable.  
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

This time, I'm running an IDL script with '.run' (forget what the IDLy term is for that), which calls a bunch of subroutines to do its business. For those who don't use it regularly, this run-mode does give line numbers where errors occurred, since the file is "compiled" before running. Except in this case, it doesn't.

I said it in the previous thread and I'll say it again here: this should **never** happen. The existence of an exception that causes IDL to halt execution and not say where it stopped indicates a bug.

Without any indication of where the error occurs, I'll probably just fiddle until it goes away and not be any wiser. I'll repost if I actually uncover the root cause, or if I whittle my script down to a small case that illustrates this problem.

Happy hacking,

Edward H.

Subject: Re: "Variable is undefined: conversion destination variable."
Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2007 13:50:31 GMT
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On Jun 26, 7:42 pm, Ed Hyer <ejh...@gmail.com> wrote:

> Hi IDL folks,
>

> I said it in the previous thread and I'll say it again here: this
> should **never** happen. The existence of an exception that causes IDL

> to halt execution and not say where it stopped indicates a bug.
>

You forgot "in MY program" at the end of that sentence. If written properly, the information will be available to you. Certainly you can't blame this on IDL, but, again, EBKAC.

You should be able to determine the offending code in any number of ways, such as print statements, breakpoints, etc.

Subject: Re: "Variable is undefined: conversion destination variable."

Posted by [MarioIncandenza](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2007 15:44:16 GMT

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> You forgot "in MY program" at the end of that sentence. If written
> properly, the information will be available to you. Certainly you
> can't blame this on IDL, but, again, EBKAC.

I beg to differ. IDL, being a high-level language, provides rudimentary debugging as part of its built-in error handling. As you point out, there is in this case an error, in my code, which causes IDL to halt execution. However, in the case of this particular exception, there is an error, in IDL's error-handling routine, which results in the location where the exception occurs not being reported. Fixing errors in my own code is nothing new, it's what I do all day. But if I wanted to fix code without the benefit of any indication of where the error occurred, I'd write in assembly language.

I am not asking anyone to fix whatever was in my code that caused IDL to crap out. I am reporting a flaw in IDL's error-handling that results in certain exceptions not reporting proper debugging information.

Subject: Re: "Variable is undefined: conversion destination variable."

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 27 Jun 2007 17:40:27 GMT

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Hello,

Ed Hyer wrote:

>> You forgot "in MY program" at the end of that sentence. If written
>> properly, the information will be available to you. Certainly you
>> can't blame this on IDL, but, again, EBKAC.

>

> I beg to differ. IDL, being a high-level language, provides

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> point out, there is in this case an error, in my code, which causes
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> where the error occurred, I'd write in assembly language.
>
> I am not asking anyone to fix whatever was in my code that caused IDL
> to crap out. I am reporting a flaw in IDL's error-handling that
> results in certain exceptions not reporting proper debugging
> information.

That could very well be, but I don't see how you can be sure of that until you know what is causing the error.

It's the usual 99%/1% rule, i.e. 99% of the time you think it's a compiler (or in this case, IDL) bug, it's not. :o)

cheers,

paulv

--

Paul van Delst Ride lots.

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