Subject: Re: Locked-up workbench: ctrl-C doesnt work
Posted by David Fanning on Fri, 28 Mar 2008 04:15:12 GMT
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elwood writes:

> More than half a dozen times today my students managed to
> irretrievably hang the IDL workbench.
> They were running a while loop within their program.
> No syntax error was issued, but when they ran the program it would not
> execute.
> And the idl command-line prompt went grey.
>
> ctrl-c did not get them out of this state
> reset perspective did not get them out of this locked-up state
>
> I wish I could give you more hints, but its unclear what is causing
> this problem.
> It is not an infinite loop.

How do you know? That's what it sounds like to me. See below.

> Out of desperation they killed the workbench entirely by clicking on
> the little close x for the window.
> And then went to Windows XP task manager and killed the idl task.
>
> Has anyone else noted this problem?
> Is there another method of getting IDL out of a locked-up state?

I'm no huge fan of the Workbench, but this sounds strange.
Honestly, it sounds more like bad CATCH error handling to me. Does
everyone have a CATCH, /CANCEL as the first line of their
CATCH error handler?

I've taught several classes on the Workbench, and I haven't
run into problems like this, although one guy was rebooting
all the time. He never let me see the reason for that, so
I assume it was something he was doing, not IDL.

Cheers,

David
--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Locked-up workbench: ctrl-C doesnt work
Posted by elwood on Fri, 28 Mar 2008 04:51:42 GMT
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On Mar 27, 11:15 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
> elwood writes:
>> More than half a dozen times today my students managed to
>> irretrievably hang the IDL workbench.
>> They were running a while loop within their program.
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> all the time. He never let me see the reason for that, so
> I assume it was something he was doing, not IDL.
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
> --
> David Fanning, Ph.D.
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming (www.dfanning.com)
> Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

I'm reasonably sure its not an infinite loop

because I had one guy add bunches of print statements,
including some that were placed prior to any of his loops,
immediately after the program started.
None of them would print or execute.
The last guy who had this problem did not have any error catching
statements in his program.
That was one of my first suspicions as well!
Perhaps I should in fact have them ADD in some error handling to see
if catches what ever
is causing this problem.

It has never happened to me personally either!

My one and only clue is that he did have some accumulated syntax
errors at one point
and had not run retall.
He just kept editing and re-executing his program until everything
completely locked up.

Subject: Re: Locked-up workbench: ctrl-C doesnt work
Posted by David Fanning on Fri, 28 Mar 2008 05:40:08 GMT
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elwood writes:

> My one and only clue is that he did have some accumulated syntax
> errors at one point
> and had not run retall.
> He just kept editing and re-executing his program until everything
> completely locked up.

I suppose it's possible to get so far down into the bowels of
a program there is no way back to the top. I think I would
try adding ON_ERROR, 2, at least. No sense letting people
stew in their ignorance. :-)

Cheers,

David

--
David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Locked-up workbench: ctrl-C doesnt work
Posted by R.G. Stockwell on Fri, 28 Mar 2008 16:03:40 GMT
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"elwood" <epolomsk@uwsp.edu> wrote in message
 news:6e6ba6f7-5c0e-4783-a79c-2f329e2686ee@i7g2000prf.googleg roups.com...
> On Mar 27, 11:15 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:
...
> I'm reasonably sure its not an infinite loop
> because I had one guy add bunches of print statements,
> including some that were placed prior to any of his loops,
> immediately after the program started.

you may have to flush the prints.

Put in some stops. (at the beginning of the program,
since you seem to think it doesn't even start going,
and before and after the loop)

You could put a if counter gt 1000 then stop
inside the loop to see if you reach it (choose an appropriate number)

And print out a counter in the loop.

Cheers,
bob