
Subject: Hoping ON_IOERROR would catch errors in IDLs subroutines.

Posted by [M. Katz](#) on Tue, 03 Feb 2009 23:17:04 GMT

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I'm trying to understand why ON_IOERROR doesn't catch an error that occurs with writing an image to the disk. Here's an example where I attempt to write an image to an intentionally nonexistent folder (see below).

When I run the program it breaks at WRITE_PNG instead of jumping down to BAD_IO. However, if I change the WRITE_PNG to an OPENW, then it catches the error and redirects the flow the BAD_IO.

What is the proper protocol to catch file errors in routines that IDL provides, and handle them in the parent procedure?

-M. Katz

```
pro error_test1
  ON_IOERROR, BAD_IO

  nonexistent_folder = '/pink/elephant/'
  WRITE_PNG, nonexistent_folder+'x.png', [[0b,1b],[1b,0b]]
  PRINT, 'All is well.'
  return

BAD_IO: begin
  ON_IOERROR, NULL
  PRINT, 'I caught the error!'
  PRINT, !error_state.msg
end

return
end
```