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Subject: Re: Empty FOREACH loop  
Posted by [penteado](#) on Tue, 15 Feb 2011 03:08:42 GMT  
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I also get the temporary variables stuff, and agree that things like

```
foreach el,!null do print,el
foreach el,[] do print,el
foreach el,{} do print,el
```

Should all do nothing, with no errors.

But if foreach is given a named variable that is !null it does nothing as expected:

```
IDL> n=!null
IDL> foreach el,n do print,el
IDL>
```

On Feb 14, 9:47 pm, Michael Galloy <[mgal...@gmail.com](mailto:mgal...@gmail.com)> wrote:

```
> I was quite surprised when the following raised an error for me:
>
> IDL> foreach g, [] do help, g
> % Variable is undefined: <UNDEFINED>.
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$
>
> Does this seem like unexpected behavior? I was expecting the loop just
> not to execute.
>
> Of course, whatever the right answer is, it shouldn't do this (as it
> does on my Mac):
>
> IDL> foreach g, [] do help, g
> % Temporary variables are still checked out - cleaning up...
>
> Mike
> --www.michaelgalloy.com
> Research Mathematician
> Tech-X Corporation
```

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Subject: Re: Empty FOREACH loop  
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Tue, 15 Feb 2011 14:14:55 GMT  
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On 2/14/11 8:08 pm, Paulo Penteado wrote:

```
>
> I also get the temporary variables stuff, and agree that things like
```

```
>
> foreach el,!null do print,el
> foreach el,[] do print,el
> foreach el,{} do print,el
>
> Should all do nothing, with no errors.
>
> But if foreach is given a named variable that is !null it does nothing
> as expected:
>
> IDL> n=!null
> IDL> foreach el,n do print,el
```

Even more interesting:

```
IDL> print, !version
{ x86_64 darwin unix Mac OS X 8.0.1 Oct 5 2010    64    64}
IDL> groups = !null
IDL> foreach g, groups do help, g
```

But:

```
IDL> print, !version
{ x86_64 linux unix linux 8.0 Jun 18 2010    64    64}
IDL> groups = !null
IDL> foreach g, groups do help, g
% Variable is undefined: GROUPS.
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

This must be a fix in 8.0.1. I will do some more research, but sheds some light on the original situation that was causing me some problems debugging.

Mike

--

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Research Mathematician  
Tech-X Corporation

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Subject: Re: Empty FOREACH loop  
Posted by [Dick Jackson](#) on Fri, 12 Oct 2012 21:33:01 GMT  
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```
> On 2/14/11 8:08 pm, Paulo Penteadó wrote:
>>
>> I also get the temporary variables stuff, and agree that things like
>>
```

```
>> foreach el,!null do print,el
>> foreach el,[] do print,el
>> foreach el,{} do print,el
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>> Should all do nothing, with no errors.
>>
>> But if foreach is given a named variable that is !null it does nothing
>> as expected:
>>
>> IDL> n=!null
>> IDL> foreach el,n do print,el
```

Those examples are good, but today I realize I'd really like this to work (quietly do no iterations) if I use an undefined variable (such as an unfilled keyword variable):

```
IDL> foreach x, myUndefinedNonVariable do print,x
% Variable is undefined: MYUNDEFINEDNONVARIABLE.
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
```

Would anyone else agree that with no elements in myUndefinedNonVariable, this should quietly do no iterations?

Cheers,  
-Dick

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