
Subject: Empty FOREACH loop

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Mon, 14 Feb 2011 23:47:45 GMT

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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

--

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Subject: Re: Empty FOREACH loop

Posted by [Bill Nel](#) on Fri, 12 Oct 2012 22:40:46 GMT

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On Friday, October 12, 2012 5:33:01 PM UTC-4, Dick Jackson wrote:

```
> IDL> foreach x, myUndefinedNonVariable do print,x
>
> % Variable is undefined: MYUNDEFINEDNONVARIABLE.
>
> Would anyone else agree that with no elements in myUndefinedNonVariable, this should quietly
do no iterations?
>
> -Dick
```

Think about the fun you'd have should you happen to misspell an honest-to-goodness defined variable :-)

Subject: Re: Empty FOREACH loop

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 12 Oct 2012 22:57:22 GMT

rigby@crd.ge.com writes:

> Think about the fun you'd have should you happen to misspell an honest-to-goodness defined variable :-)

I agree. This would fall, along with silent error handlers, under my definition of Pure Evil if I were classifying it in a programming book. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thos speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Empty FOREACH loop

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Mon, 15 Oct 2012 14:59:32 GMT

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On 10/12/12 18:57, David Fanning wrote:

> rigby@crd.ge.com writes:

>

>> Think about the fun you'd have should you happen to misspell an honest-to-goodness defined variable :-)

>

> I agree. This would fall, along with silent error handlers,

> under my definition of Pure Evil if I were classifying it

> in a programming book. :-)

+1

In the context presented, I consider usage of undefined/non-existent variables as a fundamental programming error.

It causes automatic failure of the "Good Citizen" test when reviewing code submissions as a measure for granting write access to a repository.

Like going through a stop sign during your driving test. :o)

cheers,

paulv
