

Re: What is a bug, what is a bug report?

Re: What is a bug, what is a bug report?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math.symbolic/2008-01/msg00087.html>

- *From:* nano bagonghi <nano.bagonghiCUT@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 27 Jan 2008 23:56:55 +0100
-

rjf wrote:

nano bagonghi wrote:

A bug is a bug. I don't care who or how reports it.
Even little information is better than none.

Wrong. It is an almost universal observation from people who receive bug reports professionally or as a courtesy as part of maintaining free software, that the vast majority of so-called bugs are simply "user error" and have almost no informational value whatsoever.

Maybe I have some problems in letting myself understood, since I'm not mothertongue. I apologize.

I wrote earlier (see above) that in principle I do not care how much detailed is a bug report.

By reporting a bug I mean reporting a bug, i.e., a correct input which produce a wrong answer, not reporting a "user error".

I thought it was obvious that when I said "little information is better than none" I was *not* saying "little information, correct or not, is better than none".

So I believe that reporting that a certain correct input produces a wrong answer has always a value, even if the reporter has not the capacities or the will to investigate where exactly lies the problem.

That was what I wanted to say. You instead are comparing "detailed bug reports" against "erroneous bug reports due to user stupidity". There is no connection with what I said.

Said that, I have no interest in entering a war flame

Re: What is a bug, what is a bug report?

Re: What is a bug, what is a bug report?

in favour or against VB, whose drastic views about CAS capabilities I do not always condivide.

As an example of bug report:

I reported (not here, on the Mathematica group, with my "official" name) a bug on the implementation of the Ramanujan Tau function in version 6.0. I was curious so I investigated also the cause of the error, by unprotecting and listing the functions used in the computation, so I was able to tell exactly where the error was. But even if I had only said,
"Look, RamanujanTau[x] gives an erroneous value for x prime greater than"

I think that would have been sufficient to trigger an internal investigation or tell anybody using that function to be careful. Note that in this case there was not an easy and fast way to check the correctness of the computed value

g.

.