

# Re: Troolean operators

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  - *Date:* 10 Mar 2006 14:04:01 -0800
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Kilgore Trout wrote:

Although I think I understand your point, two-value logic has great strength and utility. For instance, that computer you are using is made possible because of this system of 0/1 – on/off – t/f logic.

Yes, but it crashes all the time, because the programmers, never said, true false or something else, they always say, true false or error out, and often, they don't even say error out, the computer just crashes, because they said true or false, and the value of the variable was undefined, and so then if it was meant to be a word value, a positive whole number, and it ends up being a negative number like an integer, then well crashola, bad memory assignment or whatever.

It is being applied now, by error checking which says, if the value is nil, then do this or that.

Because there is a difference between something not being assigned and a value.

for instance, you ask the computer if this number is greater than or equal to 0 do this, else do that.

You think you have it covered no?

Well the problem is that an undefined variable can be any value, whatever happens to be at that memory address, so it is outside of your equation.

You have written code, and are assuming that you will get a math result,

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which is greater to or equal to 0, but since the value was nil, not assigned, it referenced what was in that memory, pulled out a negative number not related at all to the function result you were expecting.

It is almost like a random number has been pulled from the air, because you have no idea, what the value happened to be that was sitting in that register.

Hence you have a problem, that does not appear until the computer crashes.

There used to also be a problem with division by 0. But that has been fixed.

Or at least it doesn't crash the CPU, it will still cause an error and your program whatever it might be then will handle that error.

So the design of computers, with 0's and 1's is flawed from the get go, and it still amazes me, how we used to have to reboot win 95 and win 98 like 10 times a day, .and people accepted it. They didn't have any choice because there was no real alternative. You couldn't just go and ask for your money back like you certainly would, if the washing machine you just bought, had to be unplugged and plugged back in 10 times a day.  
(sorry for the wordy response)