

Re: Another shitty example of exceptions

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Delphi/alt.comp.lang.borland-delphi/2004-04/0265.html>

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"Skybuck Flying" <nospam@hotmail.com> wrote in message
news:c50k7o\$2ep\$1@news3.tilbu1.nb.home.nl...

[...]

- > *Since calling a method is only valid if the instance of the class*
- > *exists... otherwise one would normally get an access violation ?!*
- >
- > *So I don't understand why it is valid to call .Free on a nil reference ?*

Because Free is a static method. For a virtual method, it wouldn't work.

When you write "X.Free", the compiler resolves the Free method and for static methods, it knows at compile-time which routine will be called: TObject.Free. If Free were virtual, X might refer to a class which overrides Free, and inspection of the object X refers to is necessary. This inspection does assume that X actually refers to an object; if it doesn't, that's an access violation – you can't dereference nil.

The code generated for "X.Free" is the same as for a non-OO call "Free(X)", and there is nothing wrong with passing nil as a parameter. The remaining problem is determining which Free to call, and for static methods this can be completely resolved at compile time based on the declared type of X.

Groetjes,
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