

[Fixed] ListBase TypeError #1010

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Today I spent hours tracking down a bug related to inserting and/or deleting data from a **Tree** control. In certain circumstances, an update to the underlying dataProvider would cause the following to be reported:

```
TypeError: Error #1010: A term is undefined and has no properties.  
at mx.controls.listClasses::ListBase/makeRowsAndColumnsWithExtraRows()
```

After a bit of Googling, I found that I am not alone. Other folks have the same issue with **Tree**. Even more common, it looks like people are getting the same error when manipulating data in an **AdvancedDataGrid**, in which case it is reported as:

```
TypeError: Error #1010: A term is undefined and has no properties. at  
mx.controls.listClasses::AdvancedListBase/makeRowsAndColumnsWithExtraRows()
```

After drilling down into the **Flex Framework source** and exploring the `makeRowsAndColumnsWithExtraRows` function, I added some watch expressions in the Flash Builder Debug pane. (The debug features are really, really useful for this kind of thing.) The culprit? The value for `verticalScrollPosition` was being reported as `-1`, causing a line of code to look for an array element at index `-1`. This array element was in turn undefined, so the error message suddenly makes perfect sense.

The real puzzler here is that `verticalScrollPosition` could ever be less than zero. This is the logical equivalent of scrolling to the top of the list, then scrolling up one more spot, which is of course impossible. In any case, I have decided to assume that `-1` is invalid at all times, and that `-1` really means `0`. I hope that is a safe assumption!

So, the solution is simple. In my case I had already subclassed the **Tree** control. If you're using the stock control from the framework, you'll need to subclass it and simply add the following:

```
override public function get verticalScrollPosition():Number  
{  
    return Math.max(0, super.verticalScrollPosition);  
}
```

All it does is intercept any request for `verticalScrollPosition` and guarantee that it is greater than or equal to zero. In brief testing, the error has disappeared and I have seen no side effects.

Like anything else on this blog, use this fix at your own risk, since I can't guarantee it won't have any negative impact.

Happy coding!