

I Am So Idiot

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Today I found myself chasing my tail for a bit. This function threw an exception at runtime, which indicates that the argument passed in does not match the designated cfargument type. I spent a half hour finding different ways to verify that both inputs, Group_ID and Max_Allowed, were indeed of type Numeric.

The function:

```
<cffunction name="restrictActiveUsers" output="false" access="public" returntype="Boolean">
  <cfargument name="Group_ID"      required="yes"  type="Numeric" />
  <cfargument name="Max_Allowed"   required="yes"  type="Numeric" />

  <!-- If there are too many users, get rid of some -->
  <cfif countActiveUsers(ARGUMENTS.Group_ID) gt ARGUMENTS.Max_Allowed>
    <!-- Get the top users. In practice, this is sorted on some criteria. -->
    <cfquery datasource="#Application.Datasource#" name="topUsers" maxrows="#Max(ARGUMENTS.Max_Allowed, 1)#">
      SELECT      u.User_ID
      FROM        tbl_Users u
      WHERE       u.Group_ID = <cfqueryparam cfsqltype="cf_sql_numeric" value="#ARGUMENTS.Group_ID#">
    </cfquery>

    <!-- Delete records for users not in the top set -->
    <cfquery datasource="#Application.dsname#" name="deleteBottomUsers">
      DELETE      tbl_Users
      WHERE       Group_ID = <cfqueryparam cfsqltype="cf_sql_numeric" value="#ARGUMENTS.Group_ID#">
                 User_ID NOT IN (<cfqueryparam cfsqltype="cf_sql_numeric" value="#ValueList(topUsers.User_ID)#" list="yes">)
    </cfquery>

    <!-- Records deleted, return true -->
    <cfreturn true>
  </cfif>

  <!-- Do nothing, return false -->
  <cfreturn false>
</cffunction>
```

The exception (edited for readability, relevance, and to protect the innocent):

CFCATCH.Type: Numeric

CFCATCH.Message: The argument MAX_ALLOWED passed to function restrictActiveUsers() is not of type Numeric .

CFCATCH.Detail: If the component name is specified as a type of this argument, the reason for this error might be that a definition file for such component cannot be found or is not accessible.

So something strange is afoot. Upon further review, I realized that the cfargument for Max_Allowed shows type="Numeric ". Notice the extra space, which means ColdFusion is faithfully validating the type as Numeric-SPACE. This is an invalid data type, hence the exception.

Just goes to show how a fat-finger can throw you for a loop.