

# 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>

    <cfelse>
        <!--- Do nothing, return false --->
        <cfreturn false>
    </cfif>
</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.