

Re: [ap-compsci] "missing return statement" error?
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Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 8:41 AM
To: [AP Computer Science \[ap-compsci@lyris.collegeboard.com\]](mailto:AP Computer Science [ap-compsci@lyris.collegeboard.com])

Java will give a "missing return statement" error if the method has a return type and there is a possible path through the program that will reach the end of the program without reaching a return statement. In this case, there is such a path. Suppose that the array a has no items (a.length = 0). Then the body of the "for" loop is never executed, so the program would reach the end without hitting either of the two return statements within the "for" loop.

Note that as written the for loop can never be executed more than once, even if the array has multiple values. If a[0] == searchValue it returns 0. Otherwise it returns -1.

I think that you want to eliminate the "else" and move the "return -1" outside of the "for" loop, so it is executed when the "for" loop completes.

Scot Drysdale

On Jan 26, 2010, at 1:58 PM, Tom Gracen wrote:

```
> I spent an hour fooling around with:  
>  
> public static int searchChoiceD (int[] a, int searchValue)  
> {  
>   for (int i = 0; i < a.length; i++)  
>     if (a[i] == searchValue)  
>       return i;  
>   else  
>     return -1; //the error is: "missing return statement"  
> }  
>  
> Anyone have a thorough explanation? Thanks Tom Gracen
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