

QGIS Application - Bug report #8457

\$length fails silently for polygons

2013-08-12 04:43 AM - Jonathan Moules

Status: Closed	
Priority: Normal	
Assignee:	
Category: Vectors	
Affected QGIS version: master	Regression?: No
Operating System:	Easy fix?: No
Pull Request or Patch supplied:	Resolution: duplicate
Crashes QGIS or corrupts data:	Copied to github as #: 17225
Description	
<p>I have a polygon. If I label it with the following it works fine. 'polygon' \$area</p> <p>However, if I change it to the below, using \$length, I get absolutely no output, not even the string. 'polygon' \$length</p> <p>Yes, I know I should use \$perimeter. The bug is that QGIS isn't telling me as the user that. Worse, it's not rendering anything that is still valid (the string). Both the "Output preview" and the on-map labels are completely empty.</p> <p>windows 7 x64 - QGIS a13cdf8</p>	
Related issues:	
Duplicates QGIS Application - Bug report # 8369: Null propagation of fields i...	Closed 2013-07-27

History

#1 - 2013-08-12 04:44 AM - Nathan Woodrow

\$legnth is returning NULL. String + NULL = NULL.

#2 - 2013-08-12 04:47 AM - Jonathan Moules

Also field calculator does the exact same thing, so it's not labelling specific.

Nathan Woodrow wrote:

```
| $legnth is returning NULL. String + NULL = NULL.
```

Maybe it should be converted to:

String + NULL = String.

After all, 1 + 0 = 1, and String + " = String. I'm aware that NULL != 0 or "" but I think the premise holds :-)

#3 - 2013-08-12 04:50 AM - Nathan Woodrow

We have had this talk before. It sounds great but like you said NULL != 0 or "" so we are not going to treat NULL as such. It's not going to change at the

moment, not for 2.0 anyway.

#4 - 2013-08-12 04:51 AM - Nathan Woodrow

- *Category deleted (Labelling)*

#5 - 2013-08-12 04:58 AM - Jonathan Moules

Ah, Ok.

I think outside of the Operator functions, the user likely isn't going to care about the difference between NULL, 0 and "" and they can be treated as the same. But then I come from a PHP background so... heh.

#6 - 2013-08-12 05:04 AM - Giovanni Manghi

- *Category set to Vectors*

- *Status changed from Open to Feedback*

Can we change this to something like "add a warning when using the \$length function with polygons"?

#7 - 2013-08-12 05:10 AM - Jonathan Moules

I'm not sure it should be renamed to that as it's not unique to length.

If I try "\$x" and "\$y" with a polygon they also fail (though I'd argue that's a problem with the calculator - I expected it to return the centroid, but that's neither here nor there for this). \$geometry is also blank (no help so not sure what it's supposed to do).

I imagine that area\length\perimeter all become blank when used against a POINT feature.

So the issue is more generic than a single function.

#8 - 2013-08-12 05:12 AM - Giovanni Manghi

we can rename/rephrase the ticket anyway as a feature request like "make the FC handle better some cases"

#9 - 2013-08-12 05:14 AM - Nathan Woodrow

- *Resolution set to duplicate*

- *Status changed from Feedback to Closed*

In that case it's the same as #8369