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

I have a polygon. If I label it with the following it works fine.
  'polygon' || $area

However, if I change it to the below, using $length, I get absolutely no output, not even the string.
  'polygon' || $length

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.

windows 7 x64 - QGIS a13cdf8

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