

[[strawman:  
catch\_guards]]Trace: » egal »  
block\_scoped\_bindings

» binary\_data » names » catch\_guards

## Rationale

Programs often need to catch exceptions conditionally. In portable ES, they have to write it like so:

```

try {
  ...
} catch (e) {
  if (p(e)) {
    ...
  } else {
    throw e;
  }
}

```

SpiderMonkey supports a simple syntax for *catch guards*, which abstract over this pattern. With catch guards the above could be rewritten:

```

try {
  ...
} catch (e if p(e)) {
  ...
}

```

This is simpler, more readable, and less error-prone (no forgetting to rethrow). It also means that if implementations choose to attach meta-data at `throw` points, there's no danger in overwriting this metadata by explicit rethrows.

## Syntax

The syntax of `try-catch[-finally]` statements changes to:

```

TryStatement ::= "try" Block FinallyClause
              | "try" Block ConditionalCatchClause+ UnconditionalCatchClause?
              | "try" Block UnconditionalCatchClause FinallyClause?

FinallyClause?

UnconditionalCatchClause ::= "catch" "(" Identifier ")" Block
ConditionalCatchClause  ::= "catch" "(" Identifier "if" Expression ")" Block
FinallyClause           ::= "finally" Block

```

## Restrictions

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Note that the above syntax precludes:

- zero catch clauses without a finally clause
- catch clauses following unconditional catches

## Translation

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The translations in this section assume an invisible identifier `$tmp` that is not visible even to `eval`. They use the notation `Expression[x -> y]` to mean scope-respecting substitution of `y` for `x` in the expression.

### Without unconditional catch, without finally

---

A statement of the form:

```
try B0
catch (x1 if e1) B1
...
catch (xn if en) Bn
```

translates to:

```
try B0
catch ($tmp) {
  if (e1[x1 --> $tmp]) B1
  else if ...
  else if (en[xn --> $tmp]) Bn
  else throw $tmp;
}
```

### Without unconditional catch, with finally

---

A statement of the form:

```
try B0
catch (x1 if e1) B1
...
catch (xn if en) Bn
finally BB
```

translates to:

```
try B0
catch ($tmp) {
  if (e1[x1 --> $tmp]) B1
```

```

    else if ...
    else if (en[xn --> $tmp]) Bn
    else throw $tmp;
} finally BB

```

## With unconditional catch, without finally

A statement of the form:

```

try B0
catch (x1 if e1) B1
...
catch (xn if en) Bn
catch BB

```

translates to:

```

try B0
catch ($tmp) {
    if (e1[x1 --> $tmp]) B1
    else if ...
    else if (en[xn --> $tmp]) Bn
    else BB
}

```

## With unconditional catch, with finally

A statement of the form:

```

try B0
catch (x1 if e1) B1
...
catch (xn if en) Bn
catch BB
finally BBB

```

translates to:

```

try B0
catch ($tmp) {
    if (e1[x1 --> $tmp]) B1
    else if ...
    else if (en[xn --> $tmp]) Bn
    else BB
} finally BBB

```

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