
Subject: Re: Memory limits for Unix IDL

Posted by [Bruce Macintosh](#) on Thu, 06 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan wrote:

>
> John Varsik wrote:
>>
>> Is there a limit to how much virtual memory (other than the
>> total amount of swap space) the Unix versions of IDL will use?
>> If so, how do I set it?
>
> Use
>
> unix> limit
>
> to see which limits are available. On e.g., Digital Unix there
> is a limit for "vmemoryuse", which determines the amount of
> virtual memory (i.e., swap space) that may be used.
>
> Stein Vidar

I don't think IDL's use of memory is set just by available swap space. I've tried running on Sparcs with plenty of swap space (and vmemoryuse "unlimited" according to limit) but little physical memory (32 or 64MB), and I can't create more than a couple of 256x256x100 real arrays before running out of space. Otherwise-identical machines with 128MB or 256MB can create many more arrays. IDL seems to be aware in some fashion of how much physical memory is available, and unwilling to use more than that amount. (Note that, of course, with many users/processes it'll be forced to swap anyway...)

Is this documented anywhere?

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