Subject: TEMPORARY (was Re: Fragmented memory with IDL)
Posted by jdlb on Fri, 21 May 1993 21:24:33 GMT
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thompson@serts.gsfc.nasa.gov (William Thompson) writes:
> Another way to avoid memory fragmentation is to use the TEMPORARY function
> where appropriate.

The TEMPORARY function can be useful, but caution is required as TEMPORARY
deletes the original array. Thus,
  IDL> a = temporary(a) + 1
adds 1 to A using a minimum of memory, but
  IDL> b = temporary(a) + 1
creates B while destroying A. This may be obvious to others, but it burned me
the first time.

TEMPORARY, whose effects are PERMANENT, might perhaps be more aptly named
COPY_AND_DELETE. :^)

Regards,
Jeff

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