Subject: Re: Memory allocation problem:
Posted by Karl Krieger on Mon, 23 Feb 1998 08:00:00 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

On Fri, 20 Feb 1998, I~nigo Garcia wrote:

> I think this is a bug in IDL, probably someone else has noticed it before:
> If I create a huge array, and then delete it, the allocated memory still
> remains
> ...
> The array is not there any more, so the allocated memory should be freed,
> shouldn't it ? But it is not. And I don't like the idea of exiting IDL
> everytime I are within a routine, the problem is exctly the same.
>
> I am in a Sun UltraSparc, with Solaris and IDL 5.0.2.

The reason why memory is not returned to the system under UNIX is
has already been answered here. There are malloc/free routines with
garbage collection available for UNIX, which could be used by the
RSI people, however, I don't see the benefit at least for UNIX:

UNIX does a quite good job with respect to memory management. If you check
the process table using ps you will notice that only a fraction of a
process is kept in memory. Even if the total process memory space keeps
it's size after freeing a variable, the unused process pages are swapped
to disk if the physical memory is needed for other tasks.

For Windoze derivates and MacOS this might be a different story though.

Karl
--
Max-Planck-Institute for Plasma Physics
Boltzmannstr.2, 85740 Garching, Germany      Email: krieger@ipp.mpg.de