
Subject: Re: IDL memory question

Posted by [Alex Schuster](#) on Mon, 07 Sep 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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Eugenio Sansosti wrote:

- > Suppose I define a very big array, for instance `a=fltarr(8000,8000)`.
- > When I finish using it, I can make memory free by assigning to it a
- > scalar value (for example `a=0.`), as also suggested in the IDL
- > documentation.

Oh, you call this very huge? :-)

- > Even if this operation make the required memory free for my IDL
- > application, it does not make memory free for other applications running
- > on my machine. That is, other machine users cannot use the memory I have
- > allocated until I exit IDL.
- >
- > Does any of you have a solution for that? Is it an IDL configuration
- > problem or is there any IDL command I can use?

Sorry, there is no way. It seems this is a general problem for any C program which uses `malloc()` and `free()` to access heap memory.

The FAQ has an entry about this:

http://la.znet.com/~mgs/idl_faq.html#T27

Alex

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