
Subject: Re: Strange memory consumption?
Posted by [Kevin Ivory](#) on Fri, 16 Oct 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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Alex Schuster wrote:

```
> I just noticed this:
>
> IDL> a = bindgen( 1000, 1000, 10 )
> IDL> help, /mem
> heap memory used: 10183855, max: 10183883, gets: 188,
> frees: 61
> IDL> a[*] = 1b
> IDL> help, /mem
> heap memory used: 10183906, max: 50183966, gets: 192,
> frees: 63
```

Hi Alex,

I wasn't aware of that, but I would do it differently in the first place. If you know you want to initialize an array with a constant, there are much better ways of doing so. First of all, use `bytarr` instead of `bindgen`. Then you only have to add the constant you need:

```
a = bytarr(1000, 1000, 10) + 1b
```

```
IDL> help, /mem
heap memory used: 10171230, max: 10171254, gets: 151, frees: 30
```

There is another way of defining and initializing an array in one step:

```
a = make_array(1000, 1000, 10, value=1b)
```

Initializing such large arrays, you might want to check the time consumption: On my system (Pentium 200 MHz, IDL 5.1.1 Linux, 64 MB RAM) the first assignment takes roughly 0.8s, the second takes 1.9s. (Your code takes 2 minutes! - probably because of swapping to hard disk)

Hope this helps
Kevin

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