Subject: Re: dynamic memory in call_external
Posted by korpela on Tue, 26 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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In article <88lnirufne.fsf@catspaw.jpl.nasa.gov>,
Vapuser  <vapuser@catspaw.jpl.nasa.gov> wrote:
>
>  Is it advisable to create and destroy memory within a CALL_EXTERNAL
> routine?  (that is, can one safely use malloc and free?)

These are actually two separate questions.  The answer to the second is "yes," one can safely use malloc and free from a call_external routine. IDL uses malloc and free for its memory allocations (at least in the UNIX versions).  The answer to the first question is "maybe not."  Some of the RSI domeumentation claims that this can lead to more memory fragmentation than using IDL's allocation routines would.  However I cannot easily imagine a case in which this would happen, unless IDL depends upon behavior of realloc that is not guaranteed to occur.

>   Secondly, can one create an array in IDL (in the interpreter) that
> is page aligned (i.e. as if one had done it using the 'valloc' version
> of malloc in C) which can then be passed down into the CALL_EXTERNAL
> routine.

Not that I am aware of.

Eric
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Eric Korpela  | An object at rest can never be
korpela@ssl.berkeley.edu  | stopped.
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