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Subject: Re: Memory Leaks

Posted by [steinhh](#) on Thu, 26 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <7q35bb\$ekf\$1@jura.cc.ic.ac.uk> "Justin Ashmall"  
<Justin\_Ashmall@hotmail.com> writes:

> I should point out that we had some trouble with what appeared  
> to be an internal IDL memory leak. We were using IDL 5.1 (under  
> NT 4) as control and data acquisition software on processes that  
> ran for several days. We were finding that as time progressed the  
> memory available to the PC was slowly dropping until the machine  
> crashed (taking ~ 18hrs to eat up 100+Mb of memory). Although  
> some of this memory leak may have been due to programmatical  
> errors, a significant amount of the memory was not released when  
> IDL was closed. The only way to recover the memory was to  
> reboot. I suppose it is possible that this was due to an error  
> in Windows, however NT 4.0 has a fairly good reputation in these  
> matters (I'm sure many MS bashers would disagree there though).

Hmmyeah. I cannot see how one could blame a dead program for hogging memory :-). If the only way to recover was to reboot, I'd definitely blame it on the operating system.

Of course, the problem may be exacerbated by some internal bad practice of IDL, but an operating system that doesn't reclaim all the memory from a dying process is.. well, not a good operating system.

Another matter is that IDL may be causing other processes to hog memory - I think this sometimes occurred with the X servers on Unix systems. A reboot wasn't necessary, though, only a restart of the X server, which can be done e.g. on console logout.

Regards,

Stein Vidar

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