
Subject: IDL falls to sleep!

Posted by [throop](#) on Fri, 08 Oct 1999 07:00:00 GMT

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Back in May, several users (myself included) reported problems with IDL 5.2 literally falling asleep. (Most of us were using 5.0.3 as a result.) I talked at length with RSI and my local support people, who claimed that it was not a problem, they couldn't reproduce it, it was a coding error, and/or that it was not fixable. The symptom was, under Solaris, that CPU usage would drop to zero and IDL would stop responding to any commands at all, and the process had to be killed.

I finally got RSI's attention when the following program reproduced the bug consistently, stopping after ~ 1 hour. (Biking down to their office and walking up to the tech support cubicles didn't hurt, either):

```
pro hang_bug
  for i = 0LL, 900000000LL do begin
    a = dist(50)+randomu(seed,50,50)
    a = a^2 + a
    if (i mod 1000 eq 0) then print, i
  end
end
```

With this in hand, one of the RSI support people -- although still unable to reproduce it -- suggested we try a different license manger. I'm not familiar with the nitty-gritty of licenses, but I believe it has to do with switching from a FLEX_LM license to a GENVER one. The problem was apparently that IDL was hanging when it was unable to successfully ping the license server, decided the license was bad, and stopped.

Bingo -- no 5.2 problems since!

The computer people here apparently had to change every one of LASP's 100+ licenses, but I've not heard problems since then. I'm not sure whether the issue's been fixed in 5.3, but I thought I'd pass this on to anyone still having problems.

-Henry

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