
Subject: Re: segmentation fault
Posted by [davidf](#) on Sat, 04 Dec 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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Bill Gross (gross@chuma.cas.usf.edu) writes:

> I'm looking for some expert help....well...any kind of help !

Oh, well, if any kind of help will do, I can help. :-)

> I am running a procedure that I have written in IDL using the solaris
> x86 operating system...I continually make modifications to my method
> of analysis, so I frequently break out of the program to "RETALL" and
> begin again....
>
> Unfortunately, after typing "RETALL", I now get the following message
> from IDL..
> temporary variables are still checked out-cleaning up...
>
> and then the OS gives a segmentation fault.
>
> I know I'm not running out of swap space, and a call to "TOP" shows
> that I'm taking about 20 mb with my IDL application (have 128 mb in
> system) and I've checked (and increased) the stack size and file
> descriptor limits for the OS....
>
> Can anyone give me any hints on what I should look for next ??

Uh, well, I would look for a good book on program interface design. :-)

When your program calls a procedure or function, and that procedure or function needs some variables, it gets them. If you kill the program while you are two or three levels deep, you will leave those temporary variables dangling when you RETurn ALL the way back to the main level. So IDL tries to clean up after you. Hence, the message you get.

I often (too often!) see the message when I've crashed a program in an event handler, for example, since the event handler is called from within XMANAGER.

I'm not sure why you are getting a segmentation fault, however. You are probably going to have to ask the good folks at RSI about that. Normally, IDL just carries on after returning as if nothing had happened.

I would reconsider your program design, however, to allow

better interactivity than just killing the darn thing and starting over. That seems just a tad retro to me. Kind of like the way I wrote FORTRAN programs in the late 1970's. How about a pop-up dialog that asked if you want to continue program execution at various stages of the analysis. Something you could turn off, for example, once you got the process figured out. Or maybe a slider attached to one of the parameters so you could interactively change the parameter value instead of having to start over.

> (Dave Fanning...I know you're lurking out there somewhere !)

I've never lurked on this newsgroup a day in my life. :-)

Cheers,

David

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