
Subject: How do I free memory?

Posted by [eharold](#) on Tue, 12 Jul 1994 15:24:15 GMT

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Here's the problem in brief.

1. Start IDL
2. `a=intarr(320,256,200)`
3. In another window the Solaris program `topx` tells me that IDL is using about 39 megabytes, approximately correct for the array.
4. `a=0`
5. `topx` still says IDL is using 39 megabytes.

When I free an array how do I get IDL to give up the memory it grabbed to get the array in the first place? I think IDL can reuse the 39 megabytes if it needs it but I'd like to make that memory available to any other process running on my machine, not just IDL.

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