
Subject: Re: about memory (on winnt)
Posted by [R.G.S.](#) on Tue, 22 May 2001 15:09:07 GMT
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Craig Markwardt <craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu> wrote in message
news:onofsm8ctn.fsf@cow.physics.wisc.edu...

>
> The answer is also "it depends," because it depends on which platform
> you are using. I believe that under Windows the memory is actually
> returned to the OS. Thus, other programs are able to use the memory
> again.

Just for curiosity's sake, I checked out the operation on
IDL5.4 winnt WS4 SP5. Here I run the commands over and over,
and the mem is MEM USAGE from task manager, so the mem
is indeed given back to the OS. In this case, i swap out to
create the array, so there seems to be a little overhead when
you first do it, but there is no memory leaking on subsequent
allocations and freeings.

Note: the array is 190.7M (5000*5000*8bytes)

```
a = 0, mem = 201440k  
a = dblarr(5000,5000), mem = 397076k  
a = 0, mem = 201572k  
a = dblarr(5000,5000), mem = 397076k  
a = 0, mem = 201572k
```

Cheers,
bob stockwell
