
Subject: Re: IDL Memory Leaks
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 05 Nov 2001 21:21:51 GMT
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Myron Brown (brownmz1@jhuapl.edu) writes:

> 4. The code includes repetitive reassignments of variables to large arrays,
> even within a routine (still in scope). I tried to assign variables to zero
> each time, but it doesn't seem to make a difference. Should this really be
> necessary?

I'd like to see how you are doing this (I hope you are using the TEMPORARY function!), as this is more than likely the source of your problem. You don't say how you know you are "leaking memory", but this is the kind of thing that will eat up process memory if you are not careful.

If you have the same variable on both sides of an equal sign, you really need something like this:

```
image = Temporary(image) * 5
```

And when you are done with it:

```
Undefine, image
```

(The UNDEFINE program can be found on my web page.)

Otherwise, you continually get more and more process memory (with malloc), and there is no way to give it back.

"Is it necessary?". Yes, it is very, very necessary. :-)

Cheers,

David

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