
Subject: Re: GET_LUN running out of LUNs?
Posted by [Niel Malan](#) on Thu, 13 Jun 2002 11:13:05 GMT
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On 12 Jun 2002 16:40:52 -0700, you wrote in comp.lang.idl-pvwave:

> I'm having trouble with GET_LUN and OPENW,
> running out of free units, even though I'm very careful
> to close every unit I open. These are units numbered
> from 100 to 128. I don't remember reading that
> IDL treats them differently than numbers below 100.
>
> Here's are three examples.

Your problem is that the counterpart for GET_LUN is FREE_LUN, and not CLOSE

So:

```
GET_LUN, unit  
OPENR, unit, filename  
READF, unit, dummy  
CLOSE, unit  
FREE_LUN, unit.
```

Or in shorthand:

```
OPENR, unit, filename, /GET_LUN  
READF, unit, dummy  
FREE_LUN, unit ; This works because FREE_LUN automaticall closes the file.
```

IDL-supplied units range from 100 to 128.

CLOSE, /ALL also frees automatically supplied units, which make your second example work.

To quote from the documentation:

"ALL: Set this keyword to close all open file units. In addition, any file units that were allocated via GET_LUN are freed."

There is not really a need to free the unit in a loop.

Instead of

```
> FOR i=0,30 do BEGIN  
>   GET_LUN, unit  
>   print, i, unit  
>   close, unit  
> ENDFOR
```

> END

>

use

GET_LUN, unit

FOR i=0,30 do BEGIN

print, i, unit

; OPENR, unit, filename

; READF, unit

; CLOSE, unit

ENDFOR

FREE_LUN, unit

Which will give you the same result as you second example. I am presuming that you will write to the file in the loop.

Remember then, getting a unit is different from opening a file:

OPEN - CLOSE, GET_LUN - FREE_LUN

Niel
