Subject: IDL 5.4 eating up memory under Solaris
Posted by Philippe Cattin on Sun, 23 Feb 2003 15:51:39 GMT
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Hi,

Problem: I have written an IDL program that tracks a point in a sequence of about 500 tif images. Although my program loads only 2 images at a time, the physical memory (768MB) gets filled up pretty fast (tested with gkrellm and top). What I find even worse is, that memory is NOT reclaimed by the operating system when I exit IDL! But when I restart IDL, it seems to be capable to somehow reuse that lost memory!?! However, the wasted memory is lost for other applications. Although 20-30MB of RAM is enough to solve the task, IDL fills-up the entire physical memory.

I have read all old posts on this newgroup concearning memory problems such as leaks and fragmentation. However, I still can't find the source of problem in my code. So I compiled a small sample program that demonstrates my problem (Solaris with IDL 5.4)

```
 IDL> print,!version
 { sparc sunos unix 5.4 Sep 25 2000      32      64}
```

sample programm:

```
PRO test
      cur=0
 imgs=dialog_pickfile(/READ,/MUST_EXIST,/MULTIPLE_FILES,$
  PATH='.',FILTER='*.tif')
      num=N_ELEMENTS(imgs)

      HELP,/memory
      WHILE cur+1 LT num DO BEGIN
            tmp_img=READ_TIFF(imgs[cur+1])
            UNDEFINE,tmp_img
            cur=TEMPORARY(cur)+1
      ENDWHILE
      HELP,/memory
END
```

When I run the 'test' programm with 250 tif images (1MB each), about 250MB of physical RAM is lost.

```
  heap memory used: 383442, max:     391831, gets:      547, frees: 72
  heap memory used: 383778, max:    1403715, gets:     1302, frees:825
```

and the help,/memory function lies about the real memory consumption.

running the very same program on my w2k laptop works fine. unfortunately switching platform is

not an option, since I use a library that is only available on solaris.

does anybody have a solution to this problem?

kind regards, Philippe

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