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Subject: Re: IDL memory usage

Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Wed, 14 Jan 2004 01:04:13 GMT

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> However, this may not have the desired behavior. Once the program  
> reaches the limit, any further memory allocations will fail and may  
> wreak havoc on your program. It won't just run "slower."

In this particular case, I don't believe anything will be creating havoc. I did a little test. First, I ran IDL without much else going on. Eventually, it filled up most of the available memory. Once finished, I opened up a bunch of other programs which chewed up a good chunk of memory. I then ran my same IDL program again. It again filled up most of the available memory, but it had nowhere near the amount that it had the first time around (since other programs had already claimed some of that) and it still executed in about the same time. So, this led me to conclude that I might be able to safely limit the IDL process and not run into any problems. Also, I was periodically printing out the IDL memory usage from within IDL and it leveled off early on and never grew over the rest of the execution even though you could watch more and more memory being taken from the OS during this same time.

I will try limit/ulimit and see what happens. Thanks.

Mike

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