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Subject: Re: Extremely Strange Program Behavior  
Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Wed, 26 May 2004 15:24:34 GMT  
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"Nigel Wade" wrote...

> David Fanning wrote:

>> Rick Towler writes:

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>>> Just out of curiosity, what processor is in this new machine?

>>

>> Well, I'm just borrowing this machine, really. But it is

>> a Dell 8300 with a 3GHz Pentium(R) 4 CPU processor and

>> 1GByte of RAM.

> Have you tried running memtest86 to see if there is a hardware error? It's

> just possible that running IDL twice in quick succession is causing the

> second execution to use higher physical memory addresses due to memory

> management issues.

>

> It's a reasonably quick test and might save a lot of head scratching.

I would second this. The reason I asked was that the AMD Athlon64/Optérons are very sensitive to RAM timings and more than a few times I have seen "Extremely strange program behavior" as a result of marginally compatible RAM. The P4's aren't as sensitive but you could have gotten a rotten stick of RAM.

Download the bootable .iso and burn a CD. Boot to the CD and let the test run while you get a cup of coffee or play some tennis.

>> The IDL thing, though, seems to be unrelated. It is

>> extremely reproducible...

Reproducible on other machines?

-Rick

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