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Subject: Re: % FINDFILE: Error managing child process.  
Posted by [Timm Weitkamp](#) on Sun, 25 Jul 2004 12:46:29 GMT  
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On 24.07.04 at 21:21 -0500, Craig Markwardt wrote:

> Timm Weitkamp <dont.try@this.address> writes:  
>> I am having an annoying problem with FINDFILE on a Sunblade with IDL 6.0  
>> (version = { sparc sunos unix Solaris 6.0 Jun 27 2003 64 64}). I run an  
>> IDL program that runs fine on other machines (PCs running Linux) and used  
>> to work on this Sunblade too, and now it stops with an error message at a  
>> call to FINDFILE. The call is alright, the problem is that FINDFILE seems  
>> to spawn an "ls" or something, because I get the same error when I spawn  
>> "ls" by hand:  
>>  
>> IDL> \$ls  
>> % Error managing child process.  
>> Not enough space  
>>  
>> What is this? Bug? Feature? Memory problem? It actually occurs with \*any\*  
>> spawned command (I tried "cat" or even non-existent commands with the same  
>> result). Can I circumvent this somehow? Any help appreciated. Here's the  
>> system info:  
>  
> I seem to recall a friend having a problem like this. Somehow, by  
> accident, his "/tmp" scratch area was non-writeable, except by root.  
> Once we made it writeable, then all sorts of things started to work  
> again. We speculated that somehow IDL was attempting to make a  
> temporary file, which it couldn't do when permissions were wrong.

Thank you for this hint, Craig, which I will keep in mind. At first glance, though, it doesn't exactly seem to be that (/tmp/ is writable). Another thing is that I now tried with different IDL releases (5.4, 5.6, and 6.0). The problem occurs with 5.6 and 6.0, but not with 5.4. Unfortunately my code relies on some functionality introduced in 5.6.

Also, it only occurs after allocating a considerable bunch of memory for an array (something like 4 GB out of the total of 6 GB of RAM available). But once the bug strikes, even freeing memory with DELVAR or TEMPORARY does not help anymore.

I worked on other Sunblades before (albeit with more memory available) and never ran into this. May have to contact RSI.

Cheers,  
Timm

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