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Subject: Re: % FINDFILE: Error managing child process.  
Posted by [Karl Schultz](#) on Wed, 28 Jul 2004 22:36:58 GMT  
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It turns out that this is a known problem. Here's what is happening:

FINDFILE launches child processes (using the same mechanism as SPAWN) to get file and directory information. The problem really has more to do with SPAWN itself and not FINDFILE, so you'll see the same issue anywhere else SPAWN is used.

On Solaris, IDL 5.5 and versions prior to 5.5 used `vfork()` to spawn processes. IDL 5.6 (and 6.0) were changed to use `fork()` because we were led to believe that `fork()` was more suitable when some of the threading support was added in 5.6. It turns out that `vfork()` is really the method to use regardless of the threading, and so IDL 6.1 uses `vfork()` again. This means that your problem should go away with IDL 6.1.

Hope this helps.

Karl

"Timm Weitkamp" <[dont.try@this.address](mailto:dont.try@this.address)> wrote in message  
news:Pine.LNX.4.44.0407280954480.29421-100000@localhost.localdomain...

> Thank you for all info and suggestions. It seems unlikely (though not  
> impossible) to me that a lack of swap space or other disk space should  
> cause my problem, as some of you have suggested.  
>  
> Given that there is plenty of swap space, even quite a bit of RAM left and  
> that the problem occurs only with 5.6 and higher, but not with 5.4, I tend  
> to think that it is an internal IDL problem.  
>  
> I will further investigate this thing when I have more time -- for the  
> time being I can live with it. Thanks again to all of you.  
>  
> Timm  
>  
> --  
> Timm Weitkamp  
> Paul Scherrer Institut, 5232 Villigen PSI, Switzerland  
>