Subject: Re: dymamic memory allocation
Posted by Marc Reinig on Mon, 06 Dec 2004 18:08:03 GMT
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"Mark Hadfield" <m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz> wrote in message
news:cp0fej$j1r$1@newsreader.mailgate.org...
> In IDL, variables are created at run time and do not need to be "declared"
> beforehand. Consider the following code
>
> pro test
> a = dist(30,40)
> surface, a
> a = 'My string'
> print, a
> end
>
> The first line of the procedure creates a floating point array dimensioned
> (30,40) and associates the variable name "a" with it. (The dimensions in
> this example are known at compile time, but they do not need to be.) The
> second line plots it as a surface plot. The third line creates a string
> and associates the name "a" with it. (The array created in line 1 is no
> longer accessible to IDL and the memory associated with it may--or may
> not--be returned to the operating system.) The fourth line prints the
> string to the console.

When would it be returned to the OS? Clearly (I hope) when IDL was shut down. How about when a break occurs? It would seem that a program could inadvertantly eat up much of the available memory this way.

Does IDL have a background process that eventually free's memory that is no longer associated with variables?

How would I manually free the memory or tell IDL to?

Marco

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