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Subject: Re: Idl is greedy, once it gets some memory it will NOT release it.  
Posted by [peter](#) on Tue, 16 Jan 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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Ramanujam Raghunath (rxr@pacific.jpl.nasa.gov) wrote:

: Hello all:

: I have a question on IDL's memory management. My problem could also be in the  
: swap space management in the SUNOS and IRIX 5.3, but I doubt it.

: The issue is, after an array is deleted in IDL, the memory it occupied does not  
: seem to be released (is the impression you get when you make an enquiry on the  
: swap space from the O/S (swap -s in IRIX)) until the IDL session is exited;  
: but seems to have been when you make an enquiry on the memory in IDL, using  
: help, /memory.

True. Also true for any other unix program, as far as I know, since  
memory cannot be released back to the operating system. On the other  
hand, the next time IDL needs more memory, it won't get yet another  
chunk from the system, but will re-use what has been free'd (with  
caveats for fragmentation, etc).

Peter

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