Subject: Re: assoc() allocates memory... why? Posted by Jackel on Sat, 17 Feb 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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In article <4g3cm9\$p4i@peabody.colorado.edu> tarrall@plutus.Colorado.EDU (Robert Tarrall) writes:

- > This is re. vanilla IDL 4.0.1, not PV-Wave, but I'm posting here as
- > the comp.lang.idl newsgroup looks dead, at least at our site.

As I understand it, comp.lang.idl was already taken by the interface description language people.

- > The IDL documentation claims quite clearly that assoc() does not
- > hold the data from the associated file in memory. However, it still
- > seems to allocate the memory; under both IRIX and SunOS when I
- > do something like:
- > openr,1,"bigfile"
- > x = assoc(1,fltarr(1000,301,180))
- > all the memory necessary to hold a 1000x301x180 array of floats
- > (i.e. 215 MB) is allocated by IDL. This seems very inefficient
- > at best and perhaps even just plain dumb...

You telling IDL that the file has N elements in it, each of which are 1000x301x180 floats, so it naturally creates a buffer this large. If you have a file with 1000 300x180 floats, then try

x = ASSOC(1,FLTARR(301,180))

which allows you to access the 200th element with

x1 = x(200)