
Subject: memory allocation on Macs

Posted by [pgrigis](#) on Thu, 01 May 2008 16:18:31 GMT

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Hi folks,

we have pretty much exhausted the topic of memory allocation on Windows and Linux, but I don't remember any discussion about this on Mac OS.

So, I am using IDL 6.3 on Mac OS X 10.4.11.

I tried allocating as many 1GB array as possible, and it failed after 3 successful allocations. Now, the "Activity Monitor" indicates that at this point I have 3.6 GB of memory used and 3.4 GB free. So I am wondering why can't I allocate a couple more of 1GB arrays?

Cheers,
Paolo

```
IDL> a=bytarr(1000,1000,1000)
IDL> b=bytarr(1000,1000,1000)
IDL> c=bytarr(1000,1000,1000)
IDL> d=bytarr(1000,1000,1000)
idl(318,0xa000d000) malloc: *** vm_allocate(size=1000001536) failed
(error code=3)
idl(318,0xa000d000) malloc: *** error: can't allocate region
idl(318,0xa000d000) malloc: *** set a breakpoint in szone_error to
debug
% Unable to allocate memory: to make array.
  Cannot allocate memory
% Execution halted at: $MAIN$
I
```
