
Subject: Re: IDL bus errors

Posted by [David Foster](#) on Thu, 04 Apr 1996 08:00:00 GMT

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rfinch@water.ca.gov (Ralph Finch) wrote:

>
> IDL 4.0.1, Solaris 2.4, Sparc 20.
>
> We use a 15,000+ line IDL program to manipulate data. It's not
> uncommon for this program to crash several times during the day with a
> bus error, which is pretty annoying, because apart from the crash it's
> just about impossible to track the source of the error without putting
> in lots of print statements throughout the code to track location. Do
> other people get this problem, and if so, do you think it's an IDL
> problem or our programming? How can we identify the location and fix
> it?
>

First, while you are debugging the program remove all occurrences of ON_ERROR, 2 (you want the default, which is to stop at the statement that caused the error). This allows IDL to give a more informative error message, including line-numbers from the offending statement (if you use ON_ERROR 2 in your event handler, you get only the line-number from the offending function (if it IS in a function), and if the function calls are nested, it gets really messy).

Second, if you are using CALL_EXTERNAL to call C or Fortran functions, then look carefully at these. Check the arguments to make sure they agree in type, size, etc. The only Bus errors I've encountered occurred when I was debugging a CALL_EXTERNAL call, and the problem was usually the arguments.

Hope this is useful. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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