
Subject: HANDLE_FREE: when to use? is it necessary?
Posted by [Russ Welti](#) on Mon, 22 Jul 1996 07:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I was told once by RSI that if one is only about to reassign a handle to point to a NEW piece of data (when it already points to some other data) it is *not* necessary to call HANDLE_FREE.

Also, interestingly, using grep in idl's home /lib dir and in several pub domain dirs which have hundreds of IDL source files and applications, I can find only 3 or 4 occurrences of 'handle_free' OR 'HANDLE_FREE'. Why does it not get used? Why does the manual never say or show how to use it? Is it really so unimportant?

I ask because my app is getting memory hungry, and its memory consumption currently monotonically grows over the course of an extended session of using it, even though when user 'opens' a new 'doc', I set all large arrays to scalar 0.

All compiling has been done before I start taking measurements.

The only possible source would seem to be the fact that I am not explicitly freeing handles, I am simply pointing them to new things.

If freeing handles is really the answer, and is a required practise, then why so few occurrences of its use in IDL programs?

Anyone ever gotten a good FAQ on IDL memory management, beyond the few pointers given in the User's Guide, and what can be gleaned from the C programming info in the Advanced Dev. Guide??

Thanks much,

Russ Welti

/-\
(c-g)

University of Washington

\-/

Molecular Biotechnology

/

PO Box 357730

/-\
(a-t)

Seattle, WA 98195

rwelti@u.washington.edu

\-/

(206) 616 5116 voice (206) 685 7301 FAX /
