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Subject: Re: File Delete -- Friggin A!!

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 05 Feb 2010 18:25:40 GMT

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David Fanning writes:

> Something really weird is happening. I can create files  
> in IDL, and then delete them. The files I am having  
> problems with are opened in objects. In general, these  
> files are closed and then deleted (if required) in their  
> CLEANUP methods. It is as if, when I get into the CLEANUP  
> method, I can no longer access the LUN attached to the  
> file, so these files cannot be closed properly. Once  
> this happens, nothing I can do at the IDL command line  
> can get the files out of this condition, and I have to  
> exit IDL to gain access to permission to delete the files.

OK, all is right with the world again! :-)

My problems were occurring during program development efforts while I was testing code and searching for bugs. This might explain why tempers were a little frayed this morning. In any case, I learned something that has bugged me for a while in object programming.

I often find myself in "weird states" when I am debugging object programs, and particularly widget object programs. Typically when I am debugging, I am setting a lot of breakpoints. As a result, my object programs don't always run to completion. This can cause problems, of course, if you don't destroy the object before you run the next iteration of the program. (And who does!)

My problem, quite simply, is that my objects were not running to completion and they were not getting destroyed. Thus, they were keeping their files open and not allowing me to delete them. Being objects, I suppose their innards are hidden even from IDL. Or maybe it was because these were netCDF files and those file LUNS are not normally accessible to IDL's file tools. I don't know. In any case, a judicious use of HEAP\_GC in addition to CLOSE, /ALL makes it possible for me to delete the offending files.

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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