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Subject: Re: How to allocate memory for an array of more than 2G

Posted by [R.G.Stockwell](#) on Wed, 14 Jul 2010 03:45:28 GMT

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"NEW-IDL-USER" <mchen911@gmail.com> wrote in message  
news:c5a17126-f507-41bf-84d9-6260b9f0ec33@i18g2000pro.google groups.com...

```
> Hi,  
> I have a trouble to read a .h5 file which is about 3G.  
> I am using {x86_64 linux unix linux 7.1.1 Aug 21 2009 64 64} IDL. So  
> you see, my system is 64 bit and IDL is also 64 bit. The problem I  
> cannot allocate a memory for an array more than 2G. I do not know why?  
> Can someone help me?  
> Thanks a lot!  
>  
> IDL> help,/memory  
> heap memory used: 818394, max: 1074560678, gets: 1069,  
> frees: 258  
> IDL> a=bytarr(1024,1024,1024)  
> IDL> help,/memory  
> heap memory used: 1074560268, max: 1074560367, gets: 1081,  
> frees: 269  
> IDL> a=bytarr(1024,1024,1024)  
> % Unable to allocate memory: to make array.  
> Cannot allocate memory
```

Hello New,

I have no idea why you cannot allocate that memory.

In fact, you call a = bytarr() twice, so it looks like you can  
only allocate one gig. How much memory is on your machine?

And are there quotas involved on the IDL process (perhaps you should  
ask your sys admin).

for instance, you should be able to do this.

```
IDL> a=bytarr(1024,1024,1024)  
IDL> b=bytarr(1024,1024,1024)  
IDL> c=bytarr(1024,1024,1024)  
IDL> d=bytarr(1024,1024,1024)  
IDL> help,/mem  
heap memory used: 4303438407, max: 4303438540, gets: 107997, frees:  
98790  
IDL> e=bytarr(1024,1024,1024)  
IDL> f=bytarr(1024,1024,1024)  
IDL> help,/mem  
heap memory used: 6450922396, max: 6450922529, gets: 108015, frees:  
98806
```

cheers,  
bob

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