
Subject: Re: Workaround for "Program unit has too many local variables"?

Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Wed, 23 Oct 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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Charlie Zender wrote:

- > IDL 3.6 will not compile a procedure that has grown rather large.
- > the error message is:
- > "Program unit has too many local variables"
- > is there a workaround to this which does not involve rewriting
- > the procedure? e.g., is there a system variable i can set to
- > increase the # of local variables allowed?

You probably need to increase the memory used for compiling programs.

This is done with the .SIZE command, e.g.

```
.SIZE 60000 20000
```

which resizes the code and data areas to 60000 and 20000 bytes respectively (the default is 32768 and 8192 bytes respectively). There is an upper limit for the code and data size for each O/S. This will help you out up to a point. If you have lots of arrays defined in your program (like you would do with DATA statements in FORTRAN), then you might not be able to increase the code and data areas to a large enough size (the program will still fail to compile). In this case, you will have to store your variables in data files, and read them on start-up. I know this can be inconvenient, but it's just the way IDL works. The other option is to break up your program into a number of smaller procedures/functions, since every procedure/function has it's own code/data space.

Cheers,
Liam.
