
Subject: Crashes in IDL 7.1 & 8.0, interactive + VM mode, linux and Mac OS X
Posted by [Stein Vidar Hagfors H](#) on Wed, 19 Jan 2011 17:09:57 GMT

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I've found that a RESTORE of SAVE'd system variables often causes a crash [or failed assertion] inside glibc [on linux] and inside malloc [on OS X]. The crash doesn't occur immediately, it happens during subsequent actions at some point. I've been able to put together a modest tarball with code required to reproduce the error, but I've given up looking for the instructions on "this is how you report bugs to us so we can fix them, without going through your local provider or another few hoops".

So, I'm posting here [where I infrequently visit, nowadays, although I was 'big' back in the nineties ;-], in the hope that someone'll pick it up and run with it [maybe someone from VNI/RSI sees it].

The SAVE/RESTORE sequence can be right after one another, so it's not like the content of the sysvars should change...

Anyhow, here's a link to the tarball: <http://folk.uio.no/steinhh/idl/crashing.tar.gz>

Download, unzip/tar, make sure the directory ["crashing"] is writeable, cd into it, start IDL, do "@setup_crash". After that, calling the procedure "crash" will save+restore system variables, and call a set of functions that'll provoke the crash. The setup_crash file also writes a "crash.sav" file that can be used to provoke the crash in VM mode (idl -vm=crash.sav). Hope this "works" for everyone else ;-)

I've realized that I'll need to find a workaround rather than wait for a fix, so I'm not going to take this any further...
