
Subject: Memory leak in IDL hdf5 library?

Posted by [Eddie Schlafly](#) on Tue, 18 Jan 2011 19:07:06 GMT

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I think I've found a memory leak in the IDL hdf5 library and I wanted to know if anyone knows what I'm doing wrong or what is going on. I've appended some code that leaks memory based on the IDL hdf5 example code.

I modified the example `ex_create_hdf5` routine to write a structure containing an array of structures; if the number of elements in this array is greater than 1, I see a memory leak.

Running:

```
ex_create_hdf5 & for i=0l,10 do ex_read_hdf5
```

causes the amount of memory allocated to IDL according to "top" to increase by ~700 MB every time the line is run, despite the fact that the written file is only about 40 KB.

IDL's

```
help, /memory
```

does not change and gives no indication that hundreds of MB of memory are being used by IDL. Likewise,

```
help, /heap
```

shows no pointers or objects.

I am running:

```
help, !version, /st
```

```
** Structure !VERSION, 8 tags, length=104, data length=100:
```

```
ARCH      STRING  'x86_64'
```

```
OS        STRING  'linux'
```

```
OS_FAMILY STRING  'unix'
```

```
OS_NAME    STRING  'linux'
```

```
RELEASE    STRING  '7.1.1'
```

```
BUILD_DATE STRING  'Aug 21 2009'
```

```
MEMORY_BITS INT      64
```

```
FILE_OFFSET_BITS
```

```
INT      64
```

Any hints as to what is going on?

Thanks for your help,

Eddie Schlafly

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PRO ex_create_hdf5

```

file = 'hdf5_test.h5'
fid = H5F_CREATE(file)

;; create data
data0 = { a:replicate({b:0},2) }
data = replicate(data0, 10000)

;; get data type and space, needed to create the dataset
datatype_id = H5T_IDL_CREATE(data)
dataspace_id = H5S_CREATE_SIMPLE(size(data,/DIMENSIONS))

;; create dataset in the output file
dataset_id = H5D_CREATE(fid,$
    'Sample data',datatype_id,dataspace_id)
;; write data to dataset
H5D_WRITE,dataset_id,data

;; close all open identifiers
H5D_CLOSE,dataset_id
H5S_CLOSE,dataspace_id
H5T_CLOSE,datatype_id
H5F_CLOSE,fid

```

END

PRO ex_read_hdf5

```

; Open the HDF5 file.
file = 'hdf5_test.h5'
file_id = H5F_OPEN(file)

; Open the image dataset within the file.
; This is located within the /images group.
; We could also have used H5G_OPEN to open up the group first.
dataset_id1 = H5D_OPEN(file_id, 'Sample data')

; Read in the actual image data.
image = H5D_READ(dataset_id1)

; Close all our identifiers so we don't leak resources.
H5D_CLOSE, dataset_id1
H5F_CLOSE, file_id

```

END