
Subject: Re: IDL - freeing up used memory?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 29 May 2013 17:20:46 GMT

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AMS writes:

> I'm running into a memory issue which I am not certain whether is related to my IDL code or the machine the code is running on itself, and am wondering whether someone might be able to help me out. To start with, I'm using IDL 7.1.1 on CentOS, invoking via command line.

>

I think your memory is getting fragmented. I would think about doing two things. First, I wouldn't set your unused variables to 0, as I think that promotes fragmentation. I would use the Coyote Library routine UNDEFINE to get rid of them:

<http://www.idlcoyote.com/programs/undefine.pro>

But, maybe better than this, I would try (assuming they are always the same size) to reuse the memory you have already set aside for reading in the variables:

```
FOR j=0,n DO ....
  IF N_Elements(inputVar) EQ 0 THEN $
    inputVar = ... ELSE $
    inputVar = Temporary(inputVar) * 0
  ReadU, lun, inputvar
```

Cheers,

David

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

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