On 17/07/13 16:51, andrew.p.walsh@gmail.com wrote:
> Hi All,
>
> I've come across a bit of a bizarre problem:
>
> I have a routine that loads data from ~10^6 individual files and partway through processing the list IDL stops being able to locate the files with file_search (I don't know the names of the files ahead of time).
>
> It seems that the IDL session is locked out of the system completely, it can't locate and compile routines like read_ascii, can't connect to the X server to open graphics windows and I can't even retrieve a directory listing with
>
> spawn, ls
>
> or
>
> $ls
>
> This is where it returns "Can't create pipe."
>
> Does anyone have any idea what's going on? I have version 8.2.1 on 64 bit linux (Ubuntu 12.04).
>
> Andrew
>

You have probably exceeded the system defined, per-process, limit on open file descriptors (check out ulimit).

Are you sure that you are properly closing each file after you've finished with it, and allowing all pipes etc. to close?

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Nigel Wade