Subject: Re: IDL8.4 hard crash
Posted by JDS on Wed, 18 Feb 2015 21:47:28 GMT
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>
> The crash is fixed in IDL 8.4.1. Thanks for reporting it!
> -Chris

Thanks.

> p.s. I can't quite wrap my head around how the auto-instantiation would work. More examples?

If you are constructing some nested HASH structure, now you must say:

```
a=hash()
a['key']=hash()
a['key','sub1']=hash()
a['key','sub1','sub2']=hash()
a['key','sub1','sub2','value']=1.0
```

This might more typically occur inside a loop pulling keys and values from various locations. This is also by the way why I was using a=hash() & c=(a['b']=hash()) -- to make this sort of construction slightly less painful.

Auto-instantiation means that any hash key which references an undefined value *on assignment* will cause that value to be initialized as a HASH object instead of just saying "key does not exist" and aborting. If that were in place, the above would simply be:

```
a=hash()
a['key','sub1','sub2','value']=1.0
```

This comes up quite a bit when attempting to populate deeply nested HASH structures. You end up with code sprinkled with lots of useless tests like:

```
if ~a[key1].hasKey(key2) then a[key1,key2]=hash()
```

With auto-instantiation, these statements would be implicit. It also would make Perl programmers happy ;).

Thanks again,

JD