

---

Subject: Re: Random 'Unable to allocate memory' error  
Posted by [Kai Heckel](#) on Thu, 15 Oct 2015 11:01:46 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Am Mittwoch, 14. Oktober 2015 16:59:35 UTC+2 schrieb Paul van Delst:

> Hello,  
>  
> On 10/14/15 07:15, Haje Korth wrote:  
>> Hm, I thought you could indeed be suffering from memory  
>> fragmentation,  
>> but I thought this is only a windows issue. Since you are on linux, you  
>> should be automatically using 64 bit as the 32 bit version is no longer  
>> included in recent releases. In this case, I really don't know what  
>> causes your issue. I would check with support.  
>  
> This is probably unrelated, but I experienced a similar issue recently.  
>  
> In my case it was because I was attempting to do some IDL processing on  
> a frontend (or login) node of the supercomputer I was using. That is  
> (somehow) restricted by the system setup. I'm guessing everything was  
> working fine until I passed some memory usage limit or there were too  
> many other folks on the login node - I was not doing anything too  
> complicated or big.  
>  
> When I started an interactive job on a compute node the 'Unable to  
> allocate memory' error went away. (Aside: The sysdocs said to run IDL, a  
> whole node should be taken! I guess memory management is an issue in  
> general with IDL.)  
>  
> So, if the OP is using IDL on a shared system (s/he did say "server"  
> so...other users?) maybe the other users are requesting enough resources  
> to make the OP's script run out of available memory in a seemingly  
> random way?  
>  
> (I'm waving my hands about in the air trying to make the scenario seem  
> reasonable :o)  
>  
> cheers,  
>  
> paulv  
>  
>  
>>  
>> On Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 3:44:35 AM UTC-4, Kai Heckel wrote:  
>>> Am Dienstag, 13. Oktober 2015 20:11:47 UTC+2 schrieb Haje Korth:  
>>>> I assume this is Windows OS. Did you try the 64-bit version of IDL?  
>>>>  
>>>> On Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 9:43:42 AM UTC-4, Kai Heckel

```
>>>> wrote:
>>>> > Hello everyone!
>>>> >
>>>> > I am currently processing a time series. For some reasons the
>>>> > 'Unable to allocate memory' error occurs sometimes. I don't know the
>>>> > reasons as the appearance ist not systematic. Sometimes the error occurs
>>>> > sometime not. I can say that is not file specific.
>>>> >
>>>> > Any Ideas?
>>>> >
>>>> > Thanks,
>>>> > Kai
>>>
>>>
>>> Thanks for your suggestions so far!
>>>
>>> I am processing on a linux server. So it shouldn't be anything Windows related.
>>
```

Good idea Paul but I am the only one processing on the server.... However, 32 GB of RAM should be enough for me and others to process.

Here is another idea I have:

In all processes large arrays are created. Not only one but multiple arrays. Is possible that these variables need to be deleted after they were used in each file loop?

BTW: Is it possible to delete all variable except for one?

---