Subject: Re: File units (de)allocation in IDL - what is the proper way?
Posted by Helder Marchetto on Fri, 22 Jul 2016 09:51:03 GMT

On Friday, July 22, 2016 at 11:05:09 AM UTC+2, Dave wrote:
> Hello everyone,
> when opening files to write outputs I usually do:
>
> OPENW, unit1, 'file1.txt', /GET_LUN
> OPENW, unit2, 'file2.txt', /GET_LUN
> ...
> CLOSE, unit1
> CLOSE, unit2
>
> FREE_LUN, unit1
> FREE_LUN, unit2
>
> However, it seems that closing *and freeing* can be equally achieved with:
>
> CLOSE, unit1, unit2, /ALL
>
> Is this correct? Is there a best practice?
> Thanks in advance.
> Dave

I don't think so.
These commands:

CLOSE, unit1
CLOSE, unit2

are the same as

CLOSE, unit1, unit2

But this command could do much more:

CLOSE, unit1, unit2, /all

In fact it will close *all* open units. And you don't need to specify the units at all. In other words it is equivalent to:

CLOSE, /ALL

Now you should see the problem: If you have other units open, this will close them. So it is only useful if you lost track of open units and you want to close them all... Otherwise you might close units that you don't want to close at all.

I hope this helps.

Cheers,
Helder