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Subject: Re: File units (de)allocation in IDL - what is the proper way?

Posted by [Markus Schmassmann](#) on Fri, 22 Jul 2016 10:43:37 GMT

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On 07/22/2016 11:05 AM, Dave wrote:

```
> 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?
```

not correct, CLOSEing a unit doesn't free it's lun, meaning the file is closed but the lun number is blocked and cannot be allocated for opening another process.

However, FREE\_LUN implies closing a file if it is not already closed.

For the rest, Herders remarks apply - except that FREE\_LUN doesn't have an /ALL keyword.

So, FREE\_LUN, unit1, unit2 would be correct, using separate lines is only necessary if you need to retrieve the EXIT\_STATUS.

Markus Schmassmann

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