
Subject: Re: some users will be harmed by the new licensing policy in IDL 8.6

Posted by chris_torrence@NOSPAM on Fri, 13 Jan 2017 05:03:13 GMT

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On Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 10:15:09 AM UTC-7, wlandsman wrote:

> Pat,

>

> Thanks for alerting us to this. I am not sure that this is actually a change for floating licenses. Currently in our large group, every time someone starts a IDL 8.5 session (command line or idlde) it counts toward our total of 200 licenses. This seems the same as the V8.6 policy.

>

> It does seem to be a change for node-locked licenses. If I want to process 6 data sets at the same time on a multi-core machine, the easiest thing for me is to start 6 IDL sessions, whereas for IDL 8.6 only four sessions would be allowed. Perhaps one can use the IDL_IDLbridge to get around this but it doesn't seem convenient.

>

> -Wayne

>

>

> On Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 6:49:13 PM UTC-5, Patrick Broos wrote:

>> Prior to IDL version 8.6, on a unix machine (e.g. Mac), a license was required for each unique instance of the triplet (hostname, \$USER, \$DISPLAY). For example, a single user (with constant \$DISPLAY) could run as many concurrent IDL sessions as desired, while consuming only 1 "license". This was extremely useful for data processing on multi-core machines (if the processing was most naturally parallelized via multiple IDL sessions). It was also convenient to be able to maintain several interactive IDL visualization sessions open on several desktops for days at a time without burning a lot of floating licenses.

>>

>> All this is changing in IDL 8.6. Below is Harris Corp's response to my inquiry about the new licensing scheme they are rolling out. The bottom line is that if you are using floating licenses, every IDL session will now consume a license. If you have a node-locked license, you get only 4 concurrent sessions.

>>

>> In my field, astronomy, I fear this will transform the long slow movement away from IDL into a stampede.

>>

>> -----

>>

>> Any time you launch an IDL session, it will count as a concurrent instance. Therefore if you try to launch 12 sessions of IDL on a single system at the same time, that will count as 12 instances as IDL. Any IDL 8.6 entitlement can be implemented as either a node-locked (stuck) to one computer or a floating license (can be used by multiple systems). If you use a node-lock license, you can run up to 4 concurrent IDL processes on the system. For floating licenses, each instance of IDL requires a license. A more detailed description of how many instances are available for an IDL development license is shown below:

>>

>> Local (node-locked) license:

>> IDL command line/ IDLDE - 4

```
>> Execute compiled save code - 4
>> IDL Bridge Processes - 16
>> IDL Task Engine - 1
>>
>> Served (floating) license:
>> IDL command-line/ IDLDE - 1
>> Execute compiled .sav code - 1
>> IDL Bridge Processes - 8
>> IDL Task Engine - 1
>>
>>
>> If you are using a node-locked license and you want to run 12 development sessions of IDL,
you will need 3 licenses. If you are using a floating license, it would require 12 licenses to run 12
concurrent IDL development sessions. Another thing to note is that you can use 16 concurrent
IDL_IDLBRIDGE sessions using a single node-locked license. Therefore, if you want to run 12
IDL_IDLBRIDGE sessions concurrently on a single system, you would need 1 license with a
node-locked license and 2 for a floating license.
>>
>>
>> I hope that this information will be helpful to you. Please let me know if you have any
additional questions or issues. I am happy to help.
```

Hi Pat & Wayne,

The main goal of the new licensing was to make it easier for people to license the product, and also to plug some holes in our license agreement where people were running servers with hundreds of IDL sessions using just a single node-locked license. So we tried to maintain a balance between giving the typical user enough licenses to get their job done, while not giving away too much. Hopefully in most cases we struck the right balance.

You might try the IDL bridge to see if that could take the place of some of your interactive sessions, especially if you are doing batch processing. It's fairly simple to use:

```
IDL> x = idl_idlbridge()
IDL> x.execute,'p=plot(/test)'
```

Anyway, if you find that it doesn't fit your needs, then I would recommend contacting tech support and your sales representative. I can't promise anything (since I'm not on the business side) but they are quick to respond and might be able to come up with some creative licensing solutions.

Cheers,
Chris
IDL Project Lead
