
Subject: IDL on FreeBSD

Posted by on Fri, 25 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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Hi,

I am desperatly trying to run IDL (V5.3) on FreeBSD 3.4 - but no success! I know that people have reported that previous versions of IDL (5.2.x) are running fine.

I have modified the relevant shell scripts so that FreeBSD is recognised as Linux OS. On execution idl immediatly crashes with a Segmentation fault. Other idl binaries such as idlde and lmstat which belong to the distribution do the same. Linux compatibility is installed on my system and I believe nothing points to a missing library problem. Also I have used brandelf - without success. Interestingly idlhelp does work without problems. (It seems to be linked differently).

I am new to FreeBSD. Does the Segmentation fault point towards a particular kind of problem in this case? Can I check explicitly for problems with libraries?

Any help appreciated.

Thanks, Joerg.

Subject: Re: IDL on FreeBSD

Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Tue, 29 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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Jörg Retzlaff wrote:

>

> Hi,

>

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> success! I know that people have reported that previous versions of
> IDL (5.2.x) are running fine.

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> recognised as Linux OS. On execution idl immediatly crashes with a
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> which belong to the distribution do the same. Linux compatibility
> is installed on my system and I believe nothing points to a missing
> library problem. Also I have used brandelf - without success.
> Interestingly idlhelp does work without problems. (It seems to be
> linked differently).

>

> I am new to FreeBSD. Does the Segmentation fault point towards a
> particular kind of problem in this case? Can I check explicitly for
> problems with libraries?
>
> Any help appreciated.
> Thanks, Joerg.

Between 5.2.x and 5.3, IDL for Linux switched to a libc2.1 linked library, which would not work with older libc2.0 systems (like Redhat 5.x). I suspect this could explain the problems you see, though I'm not sure if a libc2.1 version of FreeBSD is available. With 5.2.1, there were two versions, 5.2.1, linked with libc2.0, and 5.2.1L, linked with libc2.1. There was a detailed thread on this topic over the summer.

JD

--

J.D. Smith |*| WORK: (607) 255-5842
Cornell University Dept. of Astronomy |*| (607) 255-6263
304 Space Sciences Bldg. |*| FAX: (607) 255-5875
Ithaca, NY 14853 |*|

Subject: Re: IDL on FreeBSD

Posted by on Thu, 02 Mar 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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"J.D. Smith" wrote:

>
> Jï½rg Retzlaff wrote:
>>
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> Ithaca, NY 14853 |*|

Many thanks for your help! Now I use linux_base-6.1 (5.2 before) and IDL runs fine.

--Joerg.

Subject: Re: IDL on FreeBSD

Posted by [Vlad Manilici](#) on Wed, 08 Mar 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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> linked differently).
>
> I am new to FreeBSD. Does the Segmentation fault point towards a
> particular kind of problem in this case? Can I check explicitly for
> problems with libraries?

hi joerg,

i certainly do not know where your problem originates, but you still can check against what is a program linked with the "ldd" command. care, don't run it cross-platform. use the linux ldd for linux programs, all in a "linux compatibility" environment.

then, i still wonder how did those scripts recognize the package as FreeBSD, for the first thing!

yours,
vlad

Subject: Re: IDL on FreeBSD

Posted by [Jaco van Gorkom](#) on Tue, 20 Nov 2001 16:21:33 GMT

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Hi,

Karthikayan B. wrote:

> a) A displayed image gets eaten up if moved from one part of the

- > screen to another. In other words, when you move an image it is not
- > refreshed. So if you move the image to the centre of the screen those
- > portions that were under other windows are just blank spaces.

Make sure that IDL is providing backing store for your graphics windows. Type DEVICE, RETAIN=2 and/or set the default value for backing store in the IDLDE File/Preferences/Graphics/Backing Store to Pixmap. There is more info in the online help, once you solve part b).

- > b) I can not get the online help to work. It brings up an error
- > message saying that "No selection is available. Unable to execute the
- > command"

This happens to me if I select "Find Topic..." from the IDLDE Help menu. That command is probably supposed to find the word you have selected in the index. The help window should start up when you choose "Help on IDL...", or by typing ? (a question mark) at the IDL prompt.

Hope this helps,
Jaco

Subject: Re: IDL on FreeBSD

Posted by [Randall Skelton](#) on Tue, 20 Nov 2001 16:57:30 GMT

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First, I don't think comp.lang.idl is actually a group you should post to... when they say 'idl' they mean CORBA or something like that.

I have had IDL 5.3 working on FreeBSD 4.4 and I don't recall there being any show stopping bugs. The failure to refresh the graphics window is an X quirk that can show up on almost any unix system. If I recall correctly, the fix is:

device, retain=2

There have been a few people asking questions about FreeBSD and IDL in the past so it may be worth checking the archives:

<http://groups.google.com/groups?q=FreeBSD+IDL&hl=en>

Given that I haven't bothered to upgrade to 5.5, I can't say much about the help other than I know 5.3 help works. IDL help in 5.3 is spawned by a separate shell script which executes an independent binary \$IDL_PATH/bin/bin.linux/idlhelp. If you haven't already checked, check that you have install all the required shared libraries into your linux compatibility linking libraries in /compat/linux. However, failing to include linked libraries usually results in segfaults not "No selection..." errors so I doubt this is it.

For info on FreeBSD linux compatibility see:

http://www.freebsd.org/doc/en_US.ISO8859-1/books/handbook/linuxemu.html

If/when you figure this out, please post to the idl.pvwave newsgroup.

Good luck,
Randall

On 20 Nov 2001, Karthikayan B. wrote:

> I wonder if anyone had any success installing IDL on FreeBSD.
> The system:
>
> IBM T20 running FreeBSD 4.4
> Display card : S3 model graphics accelerator
> IDL Version : 5.5
>
> The problem:
>
> a) A displayed image gets eaten up if moved from one part of the
> screen to another. In other words, when you move an image it is not
> refreshed. So if you move the image to the centre of the screen those
> portions that were under other windows are just blank spaces.
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> b) I can not get the online help to work. It brings up an error
> message saying that "No selection is available. Unable to execute the
> command"
>
> Can any one offer help. Thanks.
> -BK
>

Subject: Re: IDL on FreeBSD

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 20 Nov 2001 17:00:11 GMT

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[trimmed newsgroups]

lovedale27@hotmail.com (Karthikayan B.) writes:

> I wonder if anyone had any success installing IDL on FreeBSD.
> The system:
>
> IBM T20 running FreeBSD 4.4
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> screen to another. In other words, when you move an image it is not
> refreshed. So if you move the image to the centre of the screen those
> portions that were under other windows are just blank spaces.

This question I know the answer to. You need to either set your X server to do backing store, or set IDL to do the backing store for you. Most recent versions of XFree86 v.4 have backing store turned off for some reason. It needs to be turned on with an option in your "Screen" section of XF86Config:

Option "BackingStore"

This can also be achieved with the RETAIN keyword to WINDOW, but is more of a pain.

I have no idea about your second question.

Craig

--

Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response

Subject: Re: IDL on FreeBSD
Posted by [Heike Koch-Beuttenmue](#) on Wed, 21 Nov 2001 11:43:05 GMT
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"Karthikayan B." wrote:

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> Display card : S3 model graphics accelerator
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> b) I can not get the online help to work. It brings up an error
> message saying that "No selection is available. Unable to execute the
> command"
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> Can any one offer help. Thanks.
> -BK

I am new in using IDL and get the same problem on Sun Solaris.

Heike Koch-Beuttenmüller

Subject: Re: IDL on FreeBSD
Posted by [lovedale27](#) on Wed, 21 Nov 2001 15:13:00 GMT
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Dear Craig,

Thanks very much for the reply - that fixed my display problems. I still cannot open the Help windows. I wonder if it would be all-right with you if I write to you to ask you about more questions? BTW, I am also in Physics and Astronomy (but not Finance)

-Karthik

Craig Markwardt <craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu> wrote in message news:<on8zd1s7hg.fsf@cow.physics.wisc.edu>...

> [trimmed newsgroups]
>
> lovedale27@hotmail.com (Karthikayan B.) writes:
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> Option "BackingStore"
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> This can also be achieved with the RETAIN keyword to WINDOW, but is
> more of a pain.
>
> I have no idea about your second question.
>
> Craig

Subject: Re: IDL on FreeBSD
Posted by [lovedale27](#) on Wed, 21 Nov 2001 15:30:20 GMT
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Hello All,

I got my problems resolved thanks to your help, Randall in particular.
The first problem with the display was resolved with the

"device, retain=2"

in the IDL's preference menu.

The second with the online help was resolved with this command:

"sysctl -w kern.fallback_elf_brand=3"

For the moment IDL works very well indeed. Once thanks to all those who replied.

Karthik

Randall Skelton <rhskelto@atm.ox.ac.uk> wrote in message
news:<Pine.LNX.4.33.0111201630500.23474-100000@mulligan.atm.ox.ac.uk>...

> First, I don't think comp.lang.idl is actually a group you should post
> to... when they say 'idl' they mean CORBA or something like that.
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> I have had IDL 5.3 working on FreeBSD 4.4 and I don't recall there being
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> compatibility linking libraries in /compat/linux. However, failing to
> include linked libraries usually results in segfaults not "No
> selection..." errors so I doubt this is it.
>
> For info on FreeBSD linux compatibility see:
> http://www.freebsd.org/doc/en_US.ISO8859-1/books/handbook/linuxemu.html
>
> If/when you figure this out, please post to the idl.pvwave newsgroup.
>
>
> Good luck,
> Randall
>
> On 20 Nov 2001, Karthikayan B. wrote:
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Subject: Re: IDL on FreeBSD
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Thu, 22 Nov 2001 20:09:23 GMT
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lovedale27@hotmail.com (Karthikayan B.) writes:

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> with you if I write to you to ask you about more questions? BTW, I am
> also in Physics and Astronomy (but not Finance)
>
> -Karthik

Hi Karthik--

I think it is better to ask on the newsgroup, so everybody can get the benefit of discussions.

Craig

Subject: Re: IDL on FreeBSD
Posted by [lovedale27](#) on Sun, 25 Nov 2001 00:44:16 GMT
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Koch-Beuttenmueller <Heike.Koch-Beuttenmueller@rz.uni-ulm.de> wrote in message news:<3BFB9349.AF0F2857@rz.uni-ulm.de>...

> I am new in using IDL and get the same problem on Sun Solaris.
>
> Heike Koch-Beuttenmüller

Dear Heike Koch-Beuttenmüller,

If you are having the same problems as I, then I can probably answer you - from the accumulated wisdom from reading what others wrote in reply to my initial question.

Prob. a) The display being eaten up

Soln : Go to preferences in the IDLDE menu and change the "backing

store"

Prob. b) The help not working

Soln: One has to brand the ELF libraries. This is something I forgot to do in FreeBSD while installing IDL("brandelf -t Linux idl-elf-files"). I suppose there must be a way to brand ELF in Sun.

Once again thanks to all who responded to my question. IDL is running without any trouble on BSD. It is a pity that it is not officially recognised by the RSI co..

Karthik.
