
Subject: Re: IDL and Linux on dual processor
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 07 Mar 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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charles fowler <cfowler@colorado.edu> writes:

> Hi all,
>
> I'm running IDL on a dual processor
> Linux machine.
>
> When I run two intensive IDL jobs so
> that both processors are being used,
> the machine freezes, and I have to reboot.
> The machine will freeze with a matter of
> seconds. TOP shows 100% usage at freeze point.
...
>
> The problem also occurred with RH 6.0
> and IDL 5.2.

I have seen two intensive IDL jobs running on IDL 5.2 with Redhat 5.2
with dual processors, with no crashes. Sorry.

Craig

--

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

Subject: Re: IDL and Linux on dual processor
Posted by [charles fowler](#) on Thu, 09 Mar 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Peter,

I'm using dual PIII 450's in a SuperMicro P6DBS
motherboard, with 256 megs of RAM, and 512 megs of swap space.

The IDL code is very short:

```
pro idl_test
for i=0l,1000000 do begin
for j=0l,1000000 do begin
;help,/mem
;help,/heap_variables
```

```
a=[1]
end
end
end
```

If I start this twice so that both processors are running, the machine freezes in less than a minute or two.

It doesn't seem to be a memory problem, unless there is a memory leak somewhere.

I've also tried niceing IDL to 5 instead of the default 0, but that didn't seem to help, except that maybe it might take a little longer to freeze up, but that could be my imagination.

I can run compiled jobs, or single IDL jobs using large memory requirements that require swapping, with no problem.

Sticking print statements in the above code show that the problem never happens at the same place.

RSI had me include the 2 help commands, they showed nothing interesting.

Any ideas?

Thanks,
chuck.

```
*****
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```

Subject: Re: IDL and Linux on dual processor
Posted by [pit](#) on Thu, 09 Mar 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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In article <38C53DC8.4C39C579@colorado.edu>,
charles fowler <cfowler@colorado.edu> writes:

- > Hi all,
- >
- > I'm running IDL on a dual processor
- > Linux machine.

What Processors, which Mainboard, how much memory,
and how much memory do the IDL-Jobs require?

- > When I run two intensive IDL jobs so
- > that both processors are being used,
- > the machine freezes, and I have to reboot.
- > The machine will freeze with a matter of
- > seconds. TOP shows 100% usage at freeze point.
- >
- > I can run multiple compiled C or FORTRAN
- > programs all day just fine.

Do they also use about the same amount of memory as the
IDL-Jobs?

- > RSI says that they cannot duplicate the problem.

Me neither, but I'm running SuSE. The System load is
2-4 for 24/7, doing 2-3 IDL Jobs in parallel, no problems
whatsoever.

- > Does anyone have any suggestions?
- > Is this a problem with IDL, REDHAT, motherboard???

Either MB (e.g. I have lots of Problems with a Gigabyte
Mainboard that freezes with interrupt problems).
Or Memory Problems. Try looking for memtest (look e.g.
at freshmeat) and check it.
Have a look at the Kernel messages (Don't know RedHat,
SuSE has Kernel logging on console 10; switch there
immediately after starting the jobs, or start them with
a delay, and look.)

Peter

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Subject: Re: IDL and Linux on dual processor
Posted by [pit](#) on Fri, 10 Mar 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Hi Charles,

- > I'm using dual PIII 450's in a SuperMicro P6DBS
- > motherboard, with 256 megs of RAM, and 512 megs of swap space.

almost the same here, I just happen to have an ASUS PB2DS.

- > The IDL code is very short:

[snip]

Just tried it here (started 2 of them, while 2 other IDL-Jobs + one mprime were running) - no problems whatsoever.

- > It doesn't seem to be a memory problem, unless there is
- > a memory leak somewhere.

unlikely. You would be able to see that in e.g. top

- > I can run compiled jobs, or single IDL jobs using
- > large memory requirements that require swapping, with
- > no problem.

Hm, maybe a problem with the libraries IDL is linked against!?
Sorry, can't give any more help there...

- > Any ideas?

Not really, if it's only IDL that is crashing the computer. That rules out almost any hardware related problems.
Try to find out the exact library version IDL was compiled with, and see which version you have.
Good Luck,

Peter

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