
Subject: Re: memory - RAM

Posted by [Alex Schuster](#) on Tue, 21 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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Stefan wrote:

- > my question concerns the way IDL allocates memory (both real memory -RAM-
- > and swap area)... is it possible to tell IDL to use more swap memory than
- > physical?
- >
- > background: i have to calculate the FFT of an 3D array which is pretty large
- > (about 190 MB). IDL stops the procedure with the following error message:
- >
- > unable to allocate memory: to make array
- >
- > specifications of the system:
- > IDL 5.3 on UNIX, available RAM: 949 MB, free RAM: 457 MB, free swap: 2292 MB

I guess this is no IDL problem, but a limitation in the amount of memory you are allowed to allocate. The 'limit' command tells you about it and lets you change it, e.g. 'limit datasize 500m' sets your limit to 500 megabytes of memory. With 'unlimit datasize' you can completely get rid of the limit. Put that command into your .cshrc file to make the change permanent.

I also like a 'limit coredumpsizes 0k' to prevent my machine from generating coredumps in case of a segmentation fault.

Alex

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