
Subject: IDL (and others) fails on 6.5.10f
Posted by [roberson](#) on Tue, 02 Jan 2001 23:58:00 GMT
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We have found an IRIX 6.5.10(f) error that renders some applications [e.g., RSI's IDL] nearly useless.

Do not upgrade to 6.5.10f if you need IDL

More specifically, the IRIX bug has to do with using `brk()` or `sbrk()` to return memory to IRIX. Most programs simply allow their datasegment to grow without ever shrinking, but a few programs such as IDL actively manage their memory. These programs may fail if more than 0x0001f000 bytes (126976) are being returned.

I have a simple test case for this, and I have an open case with SGI, and will open an RSI case in a moment.
Email me if you want the test case; roberson@ibd.nrc.ca and ask for 'brk2.c'.

Subject: Re: IDL (and others) fails on 6.5.10f
Posted by [roberson](#) on Wed, 03 Jan 2001 03:07:06 GMT
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In article <92tpu8\$74r\$1@canopus.cc.umanitoba.ca>, Walter Roberson <roberson@ibd.nrc.ca> wrote:
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:[e.g., RSI's IDL] nearly useless.

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:More specifically, the IRIX bug has to do with using
:brk() or sbrk() to return memory to IRIX.

This problem was new to SGI, but they have isolated the problem and found a work-around already. To get around this problem, remove the `eo.e.sw.jlimits` subsystem, `autoconfig`, and reboot.

[Note: be sure to do the `autoconfig` yourself, as IRIX does not automatically notice the removal of the kernel object file.]

So, if you do not need job limits, then you should be able to use IDL on IRIX 6.5.10f.
