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Subject: Re: Array has a corrupted descriptor  
Posted by [thompson](#) on Mon, 21 May 2001 14:56:19 GMT  
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Reimar Bauer <r.bauer@fz-juelich.de> writes:

> Hi,

> I got an error sometimes in one of my routines only on AIX.

```
> -- IDL> help,!version,/str
> ** Structure !VERSION, 7 tags, length=44:
> ARCH      STRING  'ibmr2'
> OS        STRING  'AIX'
> OS_FAMILY  STRING  'unix'
> RELEASE    STRING  '5.4.1'
> BUILD_DATE  STRING  'Jan 16 2001'
> MEMORY_BITS INT     32
> FILE_OFFSET_BITS
>          INT     =   32
```

> The same routine works on linux and windows.

> The error text is:

> % Array has a corrupted descriptor: VAR

> the calling sequence is something like this

> var=function(x)

> First I like to know what's this error is meaning.

> It seems to me that's the RETURN statement won't work.

> The result value of my function is good.

> If it reaches the calling level of the function I got

> this error.

I suspect that the function is calling external code via something like CALL\_EXTERNAL or LINKIMAGE. I've gotten error messages like that in the past when mixing IDL with external code.

The descriptor is the thing which describes a variable in IDL. It contains the datatype, array dimensions, and the physical location of the data in memory. When you pass around variables in IDL, you're really passing around the descriptors.

---

Subject: Re: Array has a corrupted descriptor  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Mon, 21 May 2001 14:58:04 GMT  
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William Thompson wrote:

```
>
> Reimar Bauer <r.bauer@fz-juelich.de> writes:
>
>> Hi,
>
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>> RELEASE    STRING  '5.4.1'
>> BUILD_DATE  STRING  'Jan 16 2001'
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>> The same routine works on linux and windows.
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>> The error text is:
>> % Array has a corrupted descriptor: VAR
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> when mixing IDL with external code.
```

In some of the functions is EXECUTE used (it's not easy to change them to call\_function at them moment). CALL\_EXTERNAL or LINKIMAGE isn't used. Do you believe EXECUTE will be give this error too ?

>  
> The descriptor is the thing which describes a variable in IDL. It contains the  
> datatype, array dimensions, and the physical location of the data in memory.  
> When you pass around variables in IDL, you're really passing around the  
> descriptors.  
>  
> William Thompson

--  
Reimar Bauer

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<http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/>

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a IDL library at Forschungszentrum Juelich  
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<http://www.fz-juelich.de/zb/text/publikation/juel3786.html>

=====

read something about linux / windows  
<http://www.suse.de/de/news/hotnews/MS.html>

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Subject: Re: Array has a corrupted descriptor  
Posted by [Stein Vidar Hagfors H\[1\]](#) on Mon, 21 May 2001 15:15:06 GMT  
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Reimar Bauer <r.bauer@fz-juelich.de> writes:

> William Thompson wrote:  
>>  
>> Reimar Bauer <r.bauer@fz-juelich.de> writes:  
[...]  
>>> The error text is:  
>>> % Array has a corrupted descriptor: VAR  
[...]

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>> when mixing IDL with external code.

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> call\_function at them moment). CALL\_EXTERNAL or LINKIMAGE isn't used.  
> Do you believe EXECUTE will be give this error too ?

I seem to remember that there was a bug in HISTOGRAM that could occasionally give such error messages.. Don't remember which IDL version (nor in what version the problem was fixed).

Are you able to pin down a repeatable case that will trigger the error? Does your routine call other routines that have call\_external/linkimage/dlm code?

--

-----  
Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan  
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Greenbelt, Maryland 20771, USA. Fax: 1-301-286-0264  
-----

---

Subject: Re: Array has a corrupted descriptor  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Mon, 21 May 2001 16:03:23 GMT  
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Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan wrote:

>  
> Reimar Bauer <r.bauer@fz-juelich.de> writes:  
>  
>> William Thompson wrote:  
>>>  
>>> Reimar Bauer <r.bauer@fz-juelich.de> writes:  
> [...]  
>>>> The error text is:  
>>>> % Array has a corrupted descriptor: VAR  
> [...]  
>  
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> version (nor in what version the problem was fixed).  
>  
> Are you able to pin down a repeatable case that will trigger the  
> error?

I hope I am able to build a smaller example, the one I have at the  
moment  
uses a lot of routines.

> Does your routine call other routines that have  
> call\_external/linkimage/dlm code?

If it's possible to exclude dlms by storing only data to sav files  
I have excluded already the ncdf dlm.

I am not able to remove the execute on the third or fourth level  
routines at the moment. This is planned.

regards

Reimar

>  
> --  
> -----  
> Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan  
> ESA SOHO SOC/European Space Agency Science Operations Coordinator for SOHO  
>  
> NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Email: shaugan@esa.nascom.nasa.gov  
> Mail Code 682.3, Bld. 26, Room G-1, Tel.: 1-301-286-9028/240-354-6066  
> Greenbelt, Maryland 20771, USA. Fax: 1-301-286-0264  
> -----

--  
Reimar Bauer

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<http://www.fz-juelich.de/zb/text/publikation/juel3786.html>

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Subject: Re: Array has a corrupted descriptor  
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Mon, 04 Jun 2001 17:34:28 GMT  
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Reimar Bauer wrote:

>  
> Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan wrote:  
>>  
>> Reimar Bauer <r.bauer@fz-juelich.de> writes:  
>>  
>>> William Thompson wrote:  
>>>>  
>>>> Reimar Bauer <r.bauer@fz-juelich.de> writes:  
>> [...]  
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>> [...]  
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> uses a lot of routines.
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>> call_external/linkimage/dlm code?
>
> If it's possible to exclude dlms by storing only data to sav files
> I have excluded already the ncdf dlm.
>
> I am not able to remove the execute on the third or fourth level
> routines at the moment. This is planned.
>
> regards
>
> Reimar
>
>>
>> --

```

Ok, I have a solution for my problem but it sounds a bit stupid.

The original code was:

```

.
.
.

temp = CREATE_STRUCT(temp, 'FLAG', '')
temp = CREATE_STRUCT(temp, temp.prog_params)
temp = delete_tag(temp $
                  , ['TIME','CALLING_SEQUENCE','INFO_STRUCT', 'PROG_PARAMS',
'MISSING_VALUE'])

```

```

.
.
.

```

ERROR: ARRAY HAS A CORRUPTED DESCRIPTOR

CHANGED TO:

```

.
.
.
prog_params=temp.prog_params

temp = delete_tag(temp $

```

```
, ['TIME','CALLING_SEQUENCE','INFO_STRUCT', 'PROG_PARAMS',  
'MISSING_VALUE'])
```

```
temp = CREATE_STRUCT(temp, 'FLAG', '')  
temp = CREATE_STRUCT(temp, prog_params)
```

```
.  
.  
.
```

I have tried to separate the failure into a small routine without success. All smaller routines based on data stored to sav files are good. In one of the child routines is execute used so I believe this is making trouble on AIX.

The same program runs good on Linux and Win NT.

Reimar

--

Reimar Bauer

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Forschungszentrum Juelich

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<http://www.fz-juelich.de/icg/icg1/>

=====

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read something about linux / windows

<http://www.suse.de/de/news/hotnews/MS.html>