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Subject: Re: GET\_LUN running out of LUNs?  
Posted by [Ken Mankoff](#) on Wed, 12 Jun 2002 23:50:46 GMT  
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> CLOSE, unit, /PLEASE ?

You should use FREE\_LUN.

I think (not sure) that:

CLOSE is used on LUNs below 100. These LUNs are usually hardcoded. ex:  
IDL> OPENR, 42, 'foo'  
IDL> CLOSE, 42

FREE\_LUN is used on LUNs from 100 to 128. These LUNs are dynamically allocated via the GET\_LUN procedure or keyword. ex:  
IDL> OPENR, lun, 'foo', /GET  
IDL> FREE\_LUN, lun

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Subject: Re: GET\_LUN running out of LUNs?  
Posted by [Niel Malan](#) on Thu, 13 Jun 2002 11:13:05 GMT  
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On 12 Jun 2002 16:40:52 -0700, you wrote in comp.lang.idl-pvwave:

> I'm having trouble with GET\_LUN and OPENW,  
> running out of free units, even though I'm very careful  
> to close every unit I open. These are units numbered  
> from 100 to 128. I don't remember reading that  
> IDL treats them differently than numbers below 100.  
>  
> Here's are three examples.

Your problem is that the counterpart for GET\_LUN is FREE\_LUN, and not CLOSE

So:

```
GET_LUN, unit  
OPENR, unit, filename  
READF, unit, dummy  
CLOSE, unit  
FREE_LUN, unit.
```

Or in shorthand:

```
OPENR, unit, filename, /GET_LUN  
READF, unit, dummy  
FREE_LUN, unit ; This works because FREE_LUN automaticall closes the file.
```

IDL-supplied units range from 100 to 128.

CLOSE, /ALL also frees automatically supplied units, which make your second example work.

To quote from the documentation:

"ALL: Set this keyword to close all open file units. In addition, any file units that were allocated via GET\_LUN are freed."

There is not really a need to free the unit in a loop.

Instead of

```
> FOR i=0,30 do BEGIN
>   GET_LUN, unit
>   print, i, unit
>   close, unit
> ENDFOR
> END
>
```

```
use
GET_LUN, unit
FOR i=0,30 do BEGIN
  print, i, unit
  ; OPENR, unit, filename
  ; READF, unit
  ; CLOSE, unit
ENDFOR
FREE_LUN, unit
```

Which will give you the same result as your second example. I am presuming that you will write to the file in the loop.

Remember then, getting a unit is different from opening a file:

OPEN - CLOSE, GET\_LUN - FREE\_LUN

Niel

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