
Subject: Question on IDL Error: Unable to free memory: from array descriptor

Posted by [Ken.Knapp](#) on Thu, 03 Apr 2003 14:27:09 GMT

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INTRODUCTION:

I have recently upgraded to IDL 5.6. I have searched the web and this newsgroup (thanks to google) for an answer and have yet to find anything. I have used IDL for ~8 years and have never run across this problem until now and it happens so frequently to me, I am surprised that it doesn't affect others.

PROBLEM:

When processing satellite code, sometimes IDL bombs out with the following message:

```
Loop over image
```

```
% Unable to free memory: from array descriptor.
```

```
Interrupted system call
```

```
% Execution halted at: PROC_TAU      1634
```

```
/home/kknapp/work/lib/idl/goes/gasp9.pro
```

```
IDL> .c
```

However, when I type `.continue` (above), it will keep running like no error happened, therefore, something seems fishy.

This error only started happening after the upgrade. Same code. Same data being processed. Same machine.

This problem has happened in my code .. in IDL-supplied code (that is it's not necessarily my code that is broken).

It rarely crashes at the same point in the code.

I cannot reproduce it on demand, so I can't provide much of an example.

Any help would be greatly appreciated!

-Ken Knapp

SYSTEM:

Linux Redhat 7.1

IDL 5.6 (recent upgrade)

-plenty of RAM (1Gb) and swap
