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Subject: IDL does not work with new Linux Kernel; Anyone know why, or better solution?

Posted by [grunes](#) on Fri, 15 Aug 2003 11:45:10 GMT

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I just updated a (Redhat) Linux box.

IDL (Interactive Data Language) 5.2, 5.3 and 5.4 hang before letting me type anything.

But, when I choose an older kernel, the problem goes away.

Not being very smart, I have know idea what this means.

Anyone know why, and if there is a better solution?

P.S. I assume everyone who uses Redhat Linux knows that if you update Linux (which you should, for security, through the Redhat Network program under start menu; sometimes under the System sub-category; but you may need to sign up for a freebee redhat linux account first), you should usually get rid of old kernels, or they will fill up gigabytes of space until you run out.

You can see packages related to your kernels by becomming superuser and typing

```
rpm -qa | grep -i kernel
```

You can get rid of old kernels by typing

```
rpm -e package-name
```

(BTW, if you put all the rpm -e commands in a procedure, and run it, rpm gets very confused and will itself hang. Seems to need a delay between command executions.)

You must keep the current kernel packages. As this problem shows, you should probably also keep the prior version, at least for a while.

If you use the grub boot loader you can choose to load the old kernel by changing the "default" value in /etc/grub.conf to i, where i is the (0-origin) ith system entry in that file.

If you are using the lilo boot loader, you must do something to /etc/lilo.conf, then run lilo. (I forget the details.)

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