
Subject: Re: IDL doesn't close files.

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Thu, 15 Apr 2004 21:57:47 GMT

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wl wrote:

- > I create a text file in IDL using openw, write some text to it, then
- > close it using
- > close, u, /force
- > free_lun, u, /force
- >
- > Then, when I try to open it in a text editor (I use the FAR manager's
- > internal editor) it says that is unable to open it because of sharing
- > violation.
- >
- > What should I do to close just created file without exiting IDL?

It *should* work.

It's not normally necessary to use /FORCE. What happens when you omit it?

Also, it's not normally necessary to use CLOSE. FREE_LUN on its own should close the file if necessary, before freeing the unit number. (But using CLOSE shouldn't cause a problem.)

Have you made some more elementary mistake, like passing an incorrect unit number? For example, the following would leave file1 opened:

```
openw, u, file1, /GET_LUN
openw, u, file2, /GET_LUN
...write some stuff
free_lun, u
free_lun, u
```

What happens when you try CLOSE, /ALL?

--

Mark Hadfield "Ka puwaha te tai nei, Hoesa tatou"

m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz

National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)

Subject: Re: IDL doesn't close files.

Posted by [R.G. Stockwell](#) on Thu, 15 Apr 2004 23:07:15 GMT

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> wl wrote:

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>> internal editor) it says that is unable to open it because of sharing
>> violation.
>>
>> What should I do to close just created file without exiting IDL?

Do NOT close then use free_lun.
If you used a get_lun, then use free_lun.
i.e.

OPENW, U, 'file.dat', /GET_LUN
writeu,U, 1.0
free_lun,U

That is what is causing your leak (probably).

Cheers,
bob

Subject: Re: IDL doesn't close files.
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Fri, 16 Apr 2004 03:49:19 GMT
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"R.G. Stockwell" <noemail@please.com> writes:

>
> Do NOT close then use free_lun.
> If you used a get_lun, then use free_lun.
> i.e.

Bob, I don't by your suggestion. CLOSE closes a file, and FREE_LUN deallocates a unit number; they are completely separate functions. [Although it is true that FREE_LUN on an open unit will close it as well as deallocating it.] You can definitely use CLOSE and then FREE_LUN. I do it all the time.

Craig

--

Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response

Subject: Re: IDL doesn't close files.
Posted by [justspam03](#) on Fri, 16 Apr 2004 09:15:44 GMT
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Hi,

I had a similar problem when using the XMLparser, say:

```
catch, error_status
if( error_status ne 0 ) then begin
  catch, /cancel
  help, /last_message
  close, /all, /force
  return, 0
end
```

```
xmlparser = obj_new('SUBCLASS_TO_IDLffXMLSAX')
xmlparser->parsefile, 'somefile'
obj_destroy, xmlparser
return, 1
```

How can I close the file when the XML parser fails?
The code suggested above does not work under Win2000 - the
file is still blocked afterwards (which is pretty bad,
because I'd like to create valid default file in this case).

Any suggestions?

Cheers
Oliver

Subject: Re: IDL doesn't close files.
Posted by [R.G. Stockwell](#) on Fri, 16 Apr 2004 14:19:52 GMT
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"Craig Markwardt" <craigmnet@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu> wrote in message
news:on1xmo60qo.fsf@cow.physics.wisc.edu...

```
>
> "R.G. Stockwell" <noemail@please.com> writes:
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>> If you used a get_lun, then use free_lun.
```

>> i.e.
>
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> deallocates a unit number; they are completely separate functions. [
> Although it is true that FREE_LUN on an open unit will close it as
> well as deallocating it.] You can definitely use CLOSE and then
> FREE_LUN. I do it all the time.
>
> Craig

Hi Craig,
yes, I should have said "do not get_lun and then close", that was the
problem that I had in mind when I read the OP. I had a colleague
ask me about that type of problem a short while ago, so I had it
in mind. It appears that closing then free_luning does not cause
the memory leak.

-bob

Subject: Re: IDL doesn't close files.
Posted by [meinel](#) on Fri, 16 Apr 2004 14:45:34 GMT
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Craig Markwardt <craigmnet@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu> wrote in message
news:<on1xmo60qo.fsf@cow.physics.wisc.edu>...

> "R.G. Stockwell" <noemail@please.com> writes:
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> Although it is true that FREE_LUN on an open unit will close it as
> well as deallocating it.] You can definitely use CLOSE and then
> FREE_LUN. I do it all the time.
>
> Craig

Yes, I have the same problem. It happens to me when I open and
(supposedly) close a lot of image files during a long session. After a
while, IDL refuses to open any more files, claiming that it has run
out of LUNs. I've tried CLOSE, FREE_LUN, /FORCE, all to no avail. The
only solution I have found is to restart IDL. Any other ideas?

Ed

PS. This happens with 5.6 on a Mac and Sun and also with 6.0 on a Sun.

Subject: Re: IDL doesn't close files.

Posted by [R.G. Stockwell](#) on Fri, 16 Apr 2004 18:33:42 GMT

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"Ed Meinel" <meinel@aero.org> wrote in message
news:63342373.0404160645.cb35f69@posting.google.com...

> Yes, I have the same problem. It happens to me when I open and
> (supposedly) close a lot of image files during a long session. After a
> while, IDL refuses to open any more files, claiming that it has run
> out of LUNs. I've tried CLOSE, FREE_LUN, /FORCE, all to no avail. The
> only solution I have found is to restart IDL. Any other ideas?
>
> Ed
>
> PS. This happens with 5.6 on a Mac and Sun and also with 6.0 on a Sun.

Hi Ed,
this does sound like the problem I've seen before.
Can you post a small snippet of code that demonstrates the error?

Cheers,
bob
