
Subject: % FINDFILE: Error managing child process.
Posted by [Timm Weitkamp](#) on Fri, 23 Jul 2004 22:02:03 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

I am having an annoying problem with FINDFILE on a Sunblade with IDL 6.0 (version = { sparc sunos unix Solaris 6.0 Jun 27 2003 64 64}). I run an IDL program that runs fine on other machines (PCs running Linux) and used to work on this Sunblade too, and now it stops with an error message at a call to FINDFILE. The call is alright, the problem is that FINDFILE seems to spawn an "ls" or something, because I get the same error when I spawn "ls" by hand:

```
IDL> $ls
% Error managing child process.
Not enough space
```

What is this? Bug? Feature? Memory problem? It actually occurs with *any* spawned command (I tried "cat" or even non-existent commands with the same result). Can I circumvent this somehow? Any help appreciated. Here's the system info:

```
IDL> print, !version
```

Timm

--
Timm Weitkamp
Paul Scherrer Institut, 5232 Villigen PSI, Switzerland

Subject: Re: % FINDFILE: Error managing child process.
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Wed, 28 Jul 2004 21:50:56 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Timm Weitkamp wrote:
> Given that there is plenty of swap space, even quite a bit of RAM left and
> that the problem occurs only with 5.6 and higher, but not with 5.4, I tend
> to think that it is an internal IDL problem.

But have you checked whether this problem occurs with FILE_SEARCH, as suggested by George White and Reimar Bauer?

If it doesn't, then you might note that

- the FINDFILE problem occurs only with IDL 5.6 and higher
- FILE_SEARCH is available, and FINDFILE is deprecated, in IDL 5.5 and higher

Problem solved!

--

Mark Hadfield "Ka puwaha te tai nei, Hoesa tatou"
m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)

Subject: Re: % FINDFILE: Error managing child process.
Posted by [Karl Schultz](#) on Wed, 28 Jul 2004 22:36:58 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

It turns out that this is a known problem. Here's what is happening:

FINDFILE launches child processes (using the same mechanism as SPAWN) to get file and directory information. The problem really has more to do with SPAWN itself and not FINDFILE, so you'll see the same issue anywhere else SPAWN is used.

On Solaris, IDL 5.5 and versions prior to 5.5 used `vfork()` to spawn processes. IDL 5.6 (and 6.0) were changed to use `fork()` because we were led to believe that `fork()` was more suitable when some of the threading support was added in 5.6. It turns out that `vfork()` is really the method to use regardless of the threading, and so IDL 6.1 uses `vfork()` again. This means that your problem should go away with IDL 6.1.

Hope this helps.

Karl

"Timm Weitkamp" <dont.try@this.address> wrote in message
news:Pine.LNX.4.44.0407280954480.29421-100000@localhost.localdomain...

> Thank you for all info and suggestions. It seems unlikely (though not
> impossible) to me that a lack of swap space or other disk space should
> cause my problem, as some of you have suggested.

>

> Given that there is plenty of swap space, even quite a bit of RAM left and
> that the problem occurs only with 5.6 and higher, but not with 5.4, I tend
> to think that it is an internal IDL problem.

>

> I will further investigate this thing when I have more time -- for the
> time being I can live with it. Thanks again to all of you.

>

> Timm

>

> --

> Timm Weitkamp

> Paul Scherrer Institut, 5232 Villigen PSI, Switzerland
>

Subject: Re: % FINDFILE: Error managing child process.
Posted by [Timm Weitkamp](#) on Sat, 31 Jul 2004 10:21:17 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Karl,

This piece of information was **exactly** what I was looking for.
And it's also good news. Closes the thread, I think.

Cheers,
Timm

On 28.07.04 at 16:36 -0600, Karl Schultz wrote:

> It turns out that this is a known problem. Here's what is happening:
>
> FINDFILE launches child processes (using the same mechanism as SPAWN) to get
> file and directory information. The problem really has more to do with
> SPAWN itself and not FINDFILE, so you'll see the same issue anywhere else
> SPAWN is used.
>
> On Solaris, IDL 5.5 and versions prior to 5.5 used vfork() to spawn
> processes. IDL 5.6 (and 6.0) were changed to use fork() because we were led
> to believe that fork() was more suitable when some of the threading support
> was added in 5.6. It turns out that vfork() is really the method to use
> regardless of the threading, and so IDL 6.1 uses vfork() again. This means
> that your problem should go away with IDL 6.1.
>
> Hope this helps.
>
> Karl
>
> "Timm Weitkamp" <dont.try@this.address> wrote in message
> news:Pine.LNX.4.44.0407280954480.29421-100000@localhost.localdomain...
>> Thank you for all info and suggestions. It seems unlikely (though not
>> impossible) to me that a lack of swap space or other disk space should
>> cause my problem, as some of you have suggested.
>>
>> Given that there is plenty of swap space, even quite a bit of RAM left and
>> that the problem occurs only with 5.6 and higher, but not with 5.4, I tend
>> to think that it is an internal IDL problem.
>>
>> I will further investigate this thing when I have more time -- for the
>> time being I can live with it. Thanks again to all of you.

>>

>> Timm

--

Timm Weitkamp

Paul Scherrer Institut, 5232 Villigen PSI, Switzerland
