

---

Subject: IDL Segmentation Fault

Posted by [Bill Anderson](#) on Tue, 03 Oct 2006 15:51:24 GMT

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Hi,

Has anyone run into this problem? I have running IDL 6.2 student edition for the past month with no problems on a MacPro Book (MacOS X 10.4) notebook. This weekend I updated my MacOS to 10.4.8 and now when I try to run idl from X11, it crashes with a "Segmentation Fault".

/Users/wmandersonjr/idl

IDL Student Edition 6.2, Mac OS X (darwin ppc m32). (c) 2005, Research Systems, Inc.

Segmentation fault

/Users/wmandersonjr/

Bill Anderson

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL Segmentation Fault

Posted by [Karl Schultz](#) on Wed, 04 Oct 2006 18:26:49 GMT

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On Wed, 04 Oct 2006 09:06:26 -0700, mankoff wrote:

> David Fanning wrote:

>> Bill Anderson writes:

>>

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>>

>> You might find this article helpful:

>>

>> <http://www.dfanning.com/tips/maccrash.html>

>>

>> Also, we discussed this problem right here less than two weeks  
>> ago, it seems to me. Check the archives.

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> I've read that article and searched the archives. I'm using IDL 5.6 on  
> a Intel MacBook. X11 programs work fine, but IDL is segfaulting  
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> Any advice?  
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> This just started yesterday when I upgraded to 10.4.8.  
>  
> -k.

Yes, I've been looking at this recently, and have collected some hopefully useful information.

IDL PPC binaries of any release now appear to crash when running on an Intel Mac under Rosetta emulation with OS X 10.4.8. The problem didn't occur with OS X 10.4.7. The crash logs indicate a crash in libXt. Since the *\*only\** change made to the environment where I observed all of this was upgrading from 10.4.7 to 10.4.8, I am inclined to suspect the Apple update to 10.4.8.

Some web searching reveals that there are more than a few problems with the 10.4.8 upgrade on Intel Macs. One person reported a similar crash with Matlab 7.1 under the same conditions. The report indicated that the Matlab crashes started after the upgrade to 10.4.8 was applied. Same situation, same problem, I think. One could also extend this thought to the possibility that any PPC binary X11 application running under Rosetta on an Intel based OS X 10.4.8 might crash.

Therefore IDL users of versions prior to 6.3 probably should not upgrade their Intel Macs to 10.4.8.

IDL 6.3 users should really get the Intel binaries for IDL that are available from ITTVIS. Not only would this relieve this particular 10.4.8 problem, but the Intel binaries run faster on the Intel Mac.

The PPC-based hardware does not seem to be adversely affected by this OS X upgrade.

I'm going to go ahead and report this problem to Apple, and all we can do is hope that they'll take the time from the Leopard schedule to release a patch for this seemingly defective OS X upgrade.

That's the best I can do for now,

Karl

---

Subject: Re: IDL Segmentation Fault  
Posted by [mankoff](#) on Wed, 04 Oct 2006 22:09:13 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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> That's the best I can do for now,  
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Thanks for taking this up with Apple. Any luck just swapping out libXt

with the previous version? I don't have access to my backup disk for another 10 days while I travel so I cannot test this.

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL Segmentation Fault  
Posted by [Karl Schultz](#) on Wed, 04 Oct 2006 23:34:44 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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```
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>>>> Bill Anderson writes:
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> Thanks for taking this up with Apple. Any luck just swapping out libXt  
> with the previous version? I don't have access to my backup disk for  
> another 10 days while I travel so I cannot test this.

I wouldn't even try it, because even if it worked, nobody would want to do anything important in that sort of environment. I would also think that more than just that one module is involved. And I didn't see any crashes when using a VNC server on the same box, so the X server itself may be part of the problem.

And by the way, I did copy the /usr/X11R6/bin/xclock binary from a ppc OS X machine and it crashed on the intel 10.4.8 machine, as I suspected it would. That's the way I filed the bug with Apple.

Karl

---

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Subject: Re: IDL Segmentation Fault  
Posted by [Xavi Llor](#) on Thu, 05 Oct 2006 08:43:18 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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As some days ago I told in a post, I had a similar problems with IDL 6.1 running in an intel Mac (Core-2-Duo), but I was using 10.4.7! So maybe the problem is not completly due to 10.4.8 update and there are some issues also in previous updates...

Xavi

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL Segmentation Fault  
Posted by [mankoff](#) on Thu, 02 Nov 2006 21:24:25 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Hi Folks,

I just got an Apple Update to X11 and this problem is now fixed.

---

---

Subject: Re: IDL Segmentation Fault  
Posted by [Karl Schultz](#) on Thu, 02 Nov 2006 22:57:10 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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On Thu, 02 Nov 2006 13:24:25 -0800, mankoff wrote:

> Hi Folks,  
>  
> I just got an Apple Update to X11 and this problem is now fixed.

Yup, works here as well.

Now 10.4.8 + the 2006 X11 Update is a good config for Intel macs.

10.4.8 fixes the memory corruption bug and the X update allows PPC X11 clients to run.

Kudos to Apple for a timely fix.

Karl

---

Subject: Re: IDL Segmentation Fault  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Fri, 03 Nov 2006 16:26:28 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Karl Schultz wrote:

> On Thu, 02 Nov 2006 13:24:25 -0800, mankoff wrote:

>

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Oo oo... which X11 update is this? Is this separate from the Xcode 2.4 update? I did the latter and my IDL still segfaults (mbp, intel core duo whatsit, 10.4.8)

paulv

--

Paul van Delst            Ride lots.

CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP/EMC

Eddy Merckx

Ph: (301)763-8000 x7748

Fax:(301)763-8545

---

Subject: Re: IDL Segmentation Fault  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 03 Nov 2006 16:30:29 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Paul van Delst writes:

> Oo oo... which X11 update is this? Is this separate from the Xcode 2.4 update? I did the  
> latter and my IDL still segfaults (mbp, intel core duo whatsit, 10.4.8)

I'm curious, too. I put a link in my web page article,



but I'm not at all sure it is the correct one:

[http://www.dfanning.com/misc\\_tips/macsefault.html](http://www.dfanning.com/misc_tips/macsefault.html)

(Bottom of article.)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

---

Subject: Re: IDL Segmentation Fault

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Fri, 03 Nov 2006 16:45:55 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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David Fanning wrote:

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>

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>

> [http://www.dfanning.com/misc\\_tips/macsefault.html](http://www.dfanning.com/misc_tips/macsefault.html)

>

> (Bottom of article.)

Thanks for the link. Reading the above, I recalled that my friendly sysadmins are still trying to get a hold of a license for the Intel-based version of 6.3 (I still have the universal binary (?) version, hence the crashage).

It's been a couple weeks now, too - I guess ITTVIS are inundated with these license requests right now.

paulv

--

Paul van Delst            Ride lots.

CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP/EMC

Eddy Merckx

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Subject: Re: IDL Segmentation Fault  
Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Fri, 03 Nov 2006 17:27:01 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

In article <MPG.1fb51c92cab64ffb989d92@news.frii.com>,  
David Fanning <news@dfanning.com> wrote:

> Paul van Delst writes:  
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> I'm curious, too. I put a link in my web page article,  
> but I'm not at all sure it is the correct one:  
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> [http://www.dfanning.com/misc\\_tips/macsegfault.html](http://www.dfanning.com/misc_tips/macsegfault.html)  
>  
> (Bottom of article.)  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> David

Just run software update on your Mac. You will see

X11 Update 2006      1.1.2      51 MB

This is different from the XCode security update.

Cheers, Ken Bowman

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---

Subject: Re: IDL Segmentation Fault  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Fri, 03 Nov 2006 17:39:16 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Kenneth Bowman wrote:

> In article <MPG.1fb51c92cab64ffb989d92@news.frii.com>,  
> David Fanning <news@dfanning.com> wrote:  
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Paul van Delst writes:

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> Garageband ;o)

Well, get those, too. Otherwise the "work efficiency" numbers  
are going to be all shot to hell. :-)

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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Subject: Re: IDL Segmentation Fault  
Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Fri, 03 Nov 2006 18:38:09 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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Nah, my macbook is a pure work machine. The less crud I have on it the better. However, work efficiency would be \*greatly\* enhanced if multiple desktops were available like in stock RH linux distros[\*] Or if OSX was an actual Unix OS. Or, most importantly, if the darn thing didn't crash several times a day.[+]

Now, the iMac sitting next to my macbook, that's another matter..... it only crashes once a week or so and iTunes is up-to-doodly-date. :o)

paulv

[\*] I know there are multi-desktop apps available for Apples - I've tried a couple and quickly uninstalled them.

[+] Problem partially solved via making the thing hibernate rather than sleep.

--

Paul van Delst            Ride lots.  
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP/EMC            Eddy Merckx  
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That seems like a lot of crashes. I won't say mine never crashes, but it is a very rare event.

I never sleep my desktop Mac. It causes problems with the network file mounts.

I sleep my Powerbook every time I move it from work to home. Every couple of weeks it gets tired of the constant network changes and quits connecting, so I restart it. It helps to be sure that volumes are unmounted before sleeping.

Ken Bowman

---

---

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> That seems like a lot of crashes. I won't say mine never crashes, but it is a  
> very rare event.

Yeah it's a lot of crashes. This was my first ever foray into the non-PC linux world and, boy, it makes windows machines look supa-stable. I reboot my linux desktop about, oh, twice a year -- that the reliability I'm used to. Granted laptops are another ball of wax, but even there I think once a month is too often. Macbook pro constant crashes are very common (google it.. I was amazed). The sad thing is that the first piece of hardware that Apple produced that wasn't apparently rock-solid is the one I started with. Good timing, hey? :o)

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- > weeks it gets tired of the constant network changes and quits connecting, so I
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There are multiple issues with the sleeping/crashing problems with Intel macbook pros. By far and away the most common theory is that, in some cases, the temperature sensor wires are too close to the CPU heat sink and, since these machines run hot, sometimes the wire casing melts away causing intermittent shorting and the machine shuts down. Googling this topic will get you many hits. I have had one person tell me about a lid-latch issue - somehow the sensor that detects the laptop is open is tripped even when it's closed and the thing wakes up while in your laptop bag .. and is very hot when it comes out. In other cases, not turning off the bluetooth auto-detect may be causing the laptops to wake up en route somewhere and again, it's hot when it comes out of the bag.

I haven't yet figured out why my laptop was crashing constantly, but I suspect its hotness. It only happens when it's connected to all my other bits at home (display, external drive, wireless mouse/keyboard); on travel using it as an actual laptop it's fine. At home, making it hibernate rather than sleep helped - the inconvenience of having to press the "on" button and wait about 2-3 minutes for it to wake up is acceptable compared to the alternative.

Anyway.....

cheers,

paulv

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Fax:(301)763-8545