Subject: Re: [OT] Re: IDL Segmentation Fault
Posted by JD Smith on Mon, 06 Nov 2006 17:41:25 GMT

On Fri, 03 Nov 2006 14:45:16 -0500, Paul van Delst wrote:

> 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)

That is a bummer.  My PB G4 is up 3 months or more at a time, going to
sleep and waking whenever I ask it.  It only gets rebooted when a
kernel patch comes in over software update (or if I forget to plug it
in and it runs out of battery).  Of course it runs IDL roughly 1/4th
the speed of yours.  Hopefully the new Core 2 MB Pro's combine speed
and better stability (initial reports are good).

JD

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Subject: Re: [OT] Re: IDL Segmentation Fault
Posted by K. Bowman on Mon, 06 Nov 2006 18:55:46 GMT

In article <eig68d$4im$1@news.nems.noaa.gov>,
 Paul van Delst <Paul.vanDelst@noaa.gov> wrote:

> 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)

> 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 back .. 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 contantly, 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.

Is your laptop simply shutting itself off, is the whole system crashing with a kernel panic,
or is an individual application crashing?  The shutdowns are common enough to have been
labeled "Random Shutdown Syndrome".  That problem is heat related, and Apple will fix it.

If it is crashing, rather than shutting down, that sounds like a software issue.

There have been some reports of laptops inadvertently switching on inside carrying bags due
to motion that might case the case to open slightly.  There is a tip on Tidbits

   http://db.tidbits.com/article/8702

that shows how to turn off automatic startup when the lid is opened.  I did this to
my G4 Powerbook to prevent it from coming on accidentally.  Now I simply open the
computer and touch the shift key to wake it.

Ken Bowman

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## Subject: Re: [OT] Re: IDL Segmentation Fault
Posted by Paul Van Delst[1] on Tue, 07 Nov 2006 16:07:43 GMT
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Kenneth Bowman wrote:
> In article <eig68d$4im$1@news.nems.noaa.gov>,

[snip]

First off, Ken, thankyouthankyouthankyou for the X11 update tip. I updated X11 over the
weekend and IDL magically started working again! Yay!

> Is your laptop simply shutting itself off, is the whole system crashing with a kernel panic,
> or is an individual application crashing?  The shutdowns are common enough to have been
> labeled "Random Shutdown Syndrome".  That problem is heat related, and Apple will fix it.

The problem I have is it simply goes into a coma during sleep mode (not always, but very
frequently). I call that a crash since I have to power cycle to get it working again. I've
never had the laptop, or applications, crash while I was actively using it (hmm... maybe
Word coughed up once, but I can't really recall).

As for Apple fixing it, well, I think there's even more online invective directed towards

Apple about their attempts to fix the problem than there is about the problem itself.
Anecdotal evidence to be sure, but there's a lot of pq'd folks out there. "Class action"
is a word that is getting bandied about a lot (like now :o) And, in my limited experience,
that's unusual for Apple users (who, typically, think the sun shines out of Apple's rear end)

> If it is crashing, rather than shutting down, that sounds like a software issue.

Well, it's not shutting down (I should ask what you mean by "shutting down") in that power
is on (i.e. the little lid light is steady on but the external display is a blank blue (a
nice robin's egg blue, not a Windows screen-of-death blue :o)

> There have been some reports of laptops inadvertently switching on inside carrying bags due
> to motion that might case the case to open slightly.  There is a tip on Tidbits
>
>    http://db.tidbits.com/article/8702
>
> that shows how to turn off automatic startup when the lid is opened.  I did this to
> my G4 Powerbook to prevent it from coming on accidentally.  Now I simply open the
> computer and touch the shift key to wake it.

That's excellent, thanks. I have to admit that the level of documentation that comes with
Apples is woeful - is there some "I am not an idiot" switch that one can set on their
apple so that the online docs reveal this useful information? If I search "power
management" on my macbook pro, I get nothing that tells me about pmset. Googling works,
but you'd have to know to search for "pmset" or "lidwake". I had the same problem with the
"hibernate" mode to pmset.

Anyway..... using hibernate rather than sleep has made my mbp perform as I think it
should. I haven't needed to cycle power for about a week and a bit now so I can leave my
working-again IDL sessions up and running even if I sleep the laptop.

cheers,

paulv

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