
Subject: idl 6.3 bus error during tv
Posted by [don.woodraska](#) on Thu, 03 Jan 2008 18:26:22 GMT
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I have very recently "upgraded" from an old mac G4 (OS-X 10.3.9) to an old hand-me-down dual mac G5 with OS-X 10.5.1 (Leopard Darwin kernel version 9.1.0). Now the tv command causes IDL to bus error. I'm still running the same old IDL version 6.3 and have no problems using plot or window commands, so the DISPLAY environment appears to be set properly. I even ran the idlbridge_demo which creates object graphics, spawns child processes, uses widgets and it works just fine. I'm thinking there is some kind of direct graphics gremlin with tv in IDL version 6.3. One of my coworkers has the exact same mac hardware I do, but she has the older IDL version 6.2 and tv works fine there.

Does anyone have any ideas regarding cause? Looks like I have to upgrade IDL to fix this.

Below is a screen dump of my session.

Thanks,
Don

```
% idl
IDL Version 6.3, Mac OS X (darwin ppc m32). (c) 2006, Research
Systems, Inc.
Installation number: xxx-xxx.
Licensed for use by: xxxxxxxx xx xxxxxx
```

```
IDL> help,!version,/str
** Structure !VERSION, 8 tags, length=76, data length=76:
  ARCH      STRING  'ppc'
  OS        STRING  'darwin'
  OS_FAMILY  STRING  'unix'
  OS_NAME    STRING  'Mac OS X'
  RELEASE    STRING  '6.3'
  BUILD_DATE STRING  'Jun 27 2006'
  MEMORY_BITS INT     32
  FILE_OFFSET_BITS
                INT     64
IDL> tv,dist(512)
% Compiled module: DIST.
Bus error
```

Subject: Re: idl 6.3 bus error during tv
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Fri, 04 Jan 2008 21:19:48 GMT

On Jan 4, 11:06 am, don.woodra...@gmail.com wrote:

- > My problem still persists. If I start a new session and execute TV, it
- > creates the empty window (filled with black nothingness), then it
- > hangs up and gives the bus error.

I'm not sure what the problem is at all, or even why as much works for you as it does.

- > Mike, thank you for the advice on updating IDL versions and providing
- > the X11 updates link. These seem to be the only thing left to try. I'm
- > a command line dinosaur, so I have to first overcome my (irrational
- > and unfounded) fear of eclipse.

That link for the X11 updates does not have anything to do with Eclipse, but will affect the behavior of graphics/widgets in IDL (and anything else you run that uses X).

Mike

--

www.michaelgalloy.com
Tech-X Corporation
Software Developer II

Subject: Re: idl 6.3 bus error during tv

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 06 Jan 2008 18:00:43 GMT

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don.woodraska@gmail.com writes:

- > My problem still persists. If I start a new session and execute TV, it
- > creates the empty window (filled with black nothingness), then it
- > hangs up and gives the bus error.
- >
- > Mike, thank you for the advice on updating IDL versions and providing
- > the X11 updates link. These seem to be the only thing left to try. I'm
- > a command line dinosaur, so I have to first overcome my (irrational
- > and unfounded) fear of eclipse.

I wouldn't be too quick to update, unless you want to for other reasons. This doesn't sound like an IDL problem to me.

Have you upgraded your graphics driver to its most recent revision?

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 6.3 bus error during tv

Posted by [don.woodraska](#) on Wed, 30 Jan 2008 02:12:17 GMT

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I just thought I'd try to close the loop on this problem. This is a working answer to my specific problem (bus errors induced by TVSCL in IDL 6.3 on OS X Leopard).

I upgraded to IDL 7.0. Now everything WORKS again! I have information from a reliable 3rd party that 6.4.1 would not fix this bug, so I jumped right to 7.0. No matter what "features" version 7 has, I am prepared to gladly embrace them (or at least happily work around them).

Cheers,

Don

IDL> help,!version,/str

** Structure !VERSION, 8 tags, length=76, data length=76:

```
ARCH      STRING  'ppc'
OS        STRING  'darwin'
OS_FAMILY  STRING  'unix'
OS_NAME    STRING  'Mac OS X'
RELEASE    STRING  '7.0'
BUILD_DATE STRING  'Oct 25 2007'
MEMORY_BITS INT    32
FILE_OFFSET_BITS
          INT      64
```

IDL> tv,dist(256)

% Compiled module: DIST.

IDL>

Subject: Re: idl 6.3 bus error during tv

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 30 Jan 2008 03:39:05 GMT

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don.woodraska@gmail.com writes:

> No matter what "features" version 7 has, I am
> prepared to gladly embrace them (or at least happily work around
> them).

"When you have no choice, you must embrace the inevitable."

I think I read that in A Madman Dreams of Turing Machines,
a wonderful book, although I can't find the quote at the moment.
Sounds like something Alan Turing would say. :-)

With the exception of losing graphics windows, I would
have to say that by and large I am pretty happy with IDL 7.
Of course, I've stripped the damn thing down and configured
the hell out of it so that it looks and acts like IDL 6.4,
but, still...

The only thing I am really missing is that wonderful ability
to edit by columns. That was neat. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

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

Subject: Re: idl 6.3 bus error during tv

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Wed, 30 Jan 2008 14:10:16 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> don.woodraska@gmail.com writes:

>

>> No matter what "features" version 7 has, I am
>> prepared to gladly embrace them (or at least happily work around
>> them).

>

> "When you have no choice, you must embrace the inevitable."

>

> I think I read that in A Madman Dreams of Turing Machines,
> a wonderful book, although I can't find the quote at the moment.
> Sounds like something Alan Turing would say. :-)

Or Richard Dawkins maybe? :o)

> With the exception of losing graphics windows,

?? Forgive me if I've lost the story in all the various idl7 threads, but what does that mean?

> I would

> have to say that by and large I am pretty happy with IDL 7.

> Of course, I've stripped the damn thing down and configured

> the hell out of it so that it looks and acts like IDL 6.4,

> but, still...

I got idl7 installed yesterday. Being a command line only type of guy, it seems no different to me -- although I haven't had time to push it. (To say nothing of being mortally a-feared to even *start* that workbench thingy, let alone learn to use it. :o)

> The only thing I am really missing is that wonderful ability

> to edit by columns. That was neat. :-)

nedit (and others) will do it. As an aside, is it possible to implement one's editor of choice in eclipse and, by extension, the IDL workbench?

cheers,

paulv

Subject: Re: idl 6.3 bus error during tv

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 30 Jan 2008 14:35:20 GMT

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Paul van Delst writes:

>> With the exception of losing graphics windows,

>

> ?? Forgive me if I've lost the story in all the various idl7 threads, but what does that mean?

WSHOW doesn't work with the IDL Workbench, so you can't easily bring your graphics windows forward on your display. You have to click them. Then, when you go back to the Workbench, they disappear again.

> I got idl7 installed yesterday. Being a command line only type of

> guy, it seems no different to me -- although I haven't had time to

> push it. (To say nothing of being mortally a-feared to even *start*

> that workbench thingy, let alone learn to use it. :o)

If you are a command line type of guy IDL 7.0 is *absolutely*

no different from IDL 6.4. Just try not to think of the money you spent on the upgrade. :-)

> As an aside, is it possible to implement one's editor of
> choice in eclipse and, by extension, the IDL workbench?

Sure, why not? The world's an oyster! (But, uh, I guess the directions are missing.) If you like a particular editor, I think I'd just stay with it and use the command line thingy. Works for most of us. I know I'd be in a lot of trouble without the IDL 6.4 On-Line Help. ;-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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