
Subject: Re: IMSL routine access from IDL

Posted by [Ken Knighton](#) on Tue, 09 May 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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Robert Cramblitt writes:

> I am trying to use the IDL call_external
> routine to call a C routine that, in turn, calls
> routines in the IMSL library. The environment
> is the Sun's Solaris operating system on a
> sparcstation. I was able to do this under SunOs 4.x,
> but under Solaris I find that, about 3 minutes after
> making such a call, I get the cryptic message
> "Alarm clock" and IDL execution terminates.

Although I don't have any experience with Solaris, I wouldn't be surprised if this is similar to a problem I ran into under HP/UX.

The problem I had was doing a socket connection using a C function called from IDL. IDL makes use of a number of UNIX signals including SIGALRM. RSI told me that SIGALRM is set to occur every two seconds when widgets are being used. This will screw up any i/o that is taking place when it happens.

I solved this problem by using:

```
oldmask = sigblock(0x2000) /* blocks SIGALRM under HP/UX */
```

```
(Part of C function that does i/o)
```

```
sigblock(oldmask) /* restores SIGALRM if set */
```

Hope this helps,

Ken Knighton
