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Subject: Re: IDL 8 uses 3x the memory of IDL 7.1  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 16 Nov 2010 01:37:51 GMT  
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James writes:

- > I just installed IDL 8, and it's using 334 MB of memory for the
- > Workbench, compared to 114 for the IDL 7.1 Workbench. This is causing
- > some problems for me, since I am forced to run IDL in 32-bit mode to
- > use my external C functions, and I run out of memory.
- >
- > I was wondering if anyone else is experiencing this phenomenon, and if
- > there is any way to reduce memory consumption by the Workbench.

Yes, this is the result of combining the Workbench and the IDL process together, something that was done in IDL 8 to make the Macintosh version work properly:

[http://www.dfanning.com/misc\\_tips/idl8mem.html](http://www.dfanning.com/misc_tips/idl8mem.html)

It is causing problems for other versions, but especially for Windows users. There is some talk of separating the processes again for Windows machines in future versions of IDL, if not to reclaim memory, then to make the Windows version stable enough to use. There seem to be some especially bad interactions with JAVA. :-(

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 8 uses 3x the memory of IDL 7.1  
Posted by [James\[2\]](#) on Tue, 16 Nov 2010 22:16:33 GMT  
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On Nov 15, 5:37 pm, David Fanning <n...@dfanning.com> wrote:

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> --  
> David Fanning, Ph.D.  
> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
> Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming:<http://www.dfanning.com/>  
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Thanks, David. This got the job done. It's ironic that in this day  
and age of parallel computing, ITT-VIS chose to merge two processes  
together.

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Subject: Re: IDL 8 uses 3x the memory of IDL 7.1

Posted by [JP](#) on Thu, 28 Apr 2011 01:26:50 GMT

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Hi all,

I've been reading a bit about the memory issues with IDL8 in windows including David's article in  
[http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc\\_tips/idl8mem.html](http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc_tips/idl8mem.html)

I still have problems doing what he suggested. Should I go back to 7.x until ITT resolves this?

cheers

JP

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