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Subject: IDL X11 forwarding segmentation fault  
Posted by [schonfsj](#) on Fri, 06 Sep 2013 16:37:44 GMT  
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Hello Everyone,

I'm having a very unusual and system specific problem which is likely beyond the scope of this forum, but I've been unable to find a solution and thought it couldn't hurt to ask if someone might know what's going on.

I use IDL (8.0.1) on my school's network and often do so remotely with an SSH connection (with X11 forwarding enabled). Since a hardware and software upgrade to the system, any attempt to access the IDL X device while SSH'd from my laptop causes a 'Segmentation Fault (Core dump)'. This is unique to my laptop (remote access with other laptops running the same Ubuntu distribution (12.04) have no problems) and to the new computers, I don't have this problem on older network computers. Clearly this is a very system specific problem, but what is most unusual is that, as far as I can tell, all other X forwarding works perfectly with the same connection; it is only IDL that fails. One final detail is that I run Ubuntu as a virtual machine inside VirtualBox (Version 4.2.16 r86992) which could be causing the problems, but prior to the system upgrade everything worked normally.

So, to me, the question seems to be, what can cause IDL X11 forwarding to fail when all other X11 forwarding requests are successful? Does IDL handle X11 forwarding in some unique way? And finally, is there anyway to fix this?

Thank you for your time, and any help you can give would be greatly appreciated,  
-Sam Schonfeld-

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Subject: Re: IDL X11 forwarding segmentation fault  
Posted by [Chip Helms](#) on Fri, 13 Sep 2013 21:40:04 GMT  
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Just a stab in the dark, but I've found if you use "ssh -XY name@host" it can sometimes solve issues with X11 forwarding. (-Y enables trusted X11 forwarding)

Cheers,  
Chip

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Subject: Re: IDL X11 forwarding segmentation fault  
Posted by [schonfsj](#) on Sat, 14 Sep 2013 21:37:31 GMT  
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On Friday, September 13, 2013 3:40:04 PM UTC-6, Chip Helms wrote:  
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>  
>  
>  
> Cheers,  
>  
> Chip

Hi Chip,

Thanks for the thought, but I had actually already tried ssh-ing with -XY (as well as just -Y). If it was a general problem with SSH I don't think I would be able to see any X-windows while SSH'd, but I can still open any X-window (xclock for example) as long as long as it's not through IDL.

Do you have any other ideas?  
-Sam-

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Subject: Re: IDL X11 forwarding segmentation fault  
Posted by [Kenneth Bowman](#) on Mon, 16 Sep 2013 20:04:45 GMT  
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On 2013-09-06 16:37:44 +0000, schonfsj@gmail.com said:

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> beyond the scope of this forum, but I've been unable to find a solution  
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> IDL handle X11 forwarding in some unique way? And finally, is there  
> anyway to fix this?

>  
> Thank you for your time, and any help you can give would be greatly  
> appreciated,  
> -Sam Schonfeld-

It could be a graphics driver problem. Try moving or renaming the following files

For IDL 8.0 and 8.1

/Applications/itt/idl/idl80/bin/bin.darwin.x86\_64/gl\_driver. so

/Applications/itt/idl/idl80/bin/bin.darwin.i386/gl\_driver.so

For IDL 8.2

/Applications/exelis/idl802/bin/bin.darwin.x86\_64/gl\_driver. so

Ken Bowman

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Subject: Re: IDL X11 forwarding segmentation fault  
Posted by [schonfsj](#) on Tue, 17 Sep 2013 18:19:18 GMT  
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On Friday, September 6, 2013 10:37:44 AM UTC-6, scho...@gmail.com wrote:

> Hello Everyone,  
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>  
>  
>

> Thank you for your time, and any help you can give would be greatly appreciated,

>

> -Sam Schonfeld-

Ken, that worked perfectly. I convinced my system administrator to rename gl\_driver.so and everything is now working as expected.

I do have one further question, although for the moment this is simply curiosity rather than need. From what google revealed, gl\_driver.so controls hardware acceleration, so why doesn't setting the preference IDL\_GR\_X\_REFERENCE=1 (software, which I tried) also fix the problem?

Thanks again,  
-Sam-

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Subject: Re: IDL X11 forwarding segmentation fault  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 17 Sep 2013 18:23:18 GMT  
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schonfsj@gmail.com writes:

> I do have one further question, although for the moment this is simply curiosity rather than need. From what google revealed, gl\_driver.so controls hardware acceleration, so why doesn't setting the preference IDL\_GR\_X\_REFERENCE=1 (software, which I tried) also fix the problem?

Ah, this is the test question for this year's IEPA applicants!

[http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc\\_tips/iepa\\_test.html](http://www.idlcoyote.com/misc_tips/iepa_test.html)

Cheers,

David

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David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

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