
Subject: Does the IDLDE regularly hang for anyone else?

Posted by [b_gom](#) on Fri, 20 Sep 2013 17:41:24 GMT

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I'm using IDL 8.2 on Windows 7 Ultimate x64 and the IDE is constantly hanging at random times. Often it is when I'm editing code, but it also happens sometimes when accessing menus or during program execution. I see this on more than one machine, but the problem is completely non-reproducible. Sometimes a session runs for hours, sometimes only for minutes.

I suspect an interaction with some Windows .NET updates, but I can't put my finger on it. Anyone else having trouble with the IDE suddenly hanging with an hourglass?

Subject: Re: Does the IDLDE regularly hang for anyone else?

Posted by [Fabzi](#) on Fri, 20 Sep 2013 20:58:39 GMT

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On 09/20/2013 07:41 PM, b_gom@hotmail.com wrote:

> Anyone else having trouble with the IDE

Sometimes, after or while debugging, my IDE hangs for a few seconds and I can't edit files or type in the console. But usually this ends after ~10 secs or so... But this doesn't happen too often. The funniest behavior I have is sometimes when I copy/paste something, instead of pasting the editor jumps in another file. All of this is rather harmless.

IDL> print, !VERSION

```
{ x86_64 linux unix linux 8.2.3 May 2 2013    64    64}
```

Subject: Re: Does the IDLDE regularly hang for anyone else?

Posted by [timothyja123](#) on Sun, 22 Sep 2013 22:28:24 GMT

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On Saturday, September 21, 2013 3:41:24 AM UTC+10, b_...@hotmail.com wrote:

> I'm using IDL 8.2 on Windows 7 Ultimate x64 and the IDE is constantly hanging at random times. Often it is when I'm editing code, but it also happens sometimes when accessing menus or during program execution. I see this on more than one machine, but the problem is completely non-reproducible. Sometimes a session runs for hours, sometimes only for minutes.

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> I suspect an interaction with some Windows .NET updates, but I can't put my finger on it. Anyone else having trouble with the IDE suddenly hanging with an hourglass?

Yes all the time. It took me a while to figure out what was going on. In my case it is 100%

reproduceable. In the main IDL program I maintain it has code like this scattered around the place:

```
CATCH, errorNum
IF (errorNum NE 0) THEN BEGIN
  CATCH, /Cancel
  HELP, /Last_Message, Output = lastError
  v = DIALOG_MESSAGE(lastError)
  Error = LastError[0]
  RETURN
ENDIF
```

So while I'm working on updates if I hit an error a popup comes up telling me where the error is. The problem is if I leave this popup open and start using the IDE to edit files etc it will freeze, sometimes it doesn't freeze right away but it will always freeze eventually. No that you remind me a think I will finally create a test program and submit a bug report for this.

Subject: Re: Does the IDLDE regularly hang for anyone else?

Posted by [timothyja123](#) on Sun, 22 Sep 2013 22:53:16 GMT

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On Monday, September 23, 2013 8:52:47 AM UTC+10, timoth...@gmail.com wrote:

> On Monday, September 23, 2013 8:28:24 AM UTC+10, timoth...@gmail.com wrote:

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>> On Saturday, September 21, 2013 3:41:24 AM UTC+10, b_...@hotmail.com wrote:

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> Hmm seems like its not as easy to reproduce (outside of my application) as I thought. Can get it to hang using my test program.

Can't get it to hang using my test program.

Subject: Re: Does the IDLDE regularly hang for anyone else?
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Sun, 22 Sep 2013 23:01:57 GMT
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timothyja123@gmail.com writes:

> Hmm seems like its not as easy to reproduce (outside of my application) as I thought. Can get it to hang using my test program.

No, I wouldn't have thought so. In fact, I doubt you can do much of anything as long as the blocking dialog is on your display.

Cheers,

David

--
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.")

Subject: Re: Does the IDLDE regularly hang for anyone else?
Posted by [timothyja123](#) on Mon, 23 Sep 2013 00:26:32 GMT

> No, I wouldn't have thought so. In fact, I doubt you can do much of
>
> anything as long as the blocking dialog is on your display.
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> Cheers,
> David

You can use pretty much everything in the IDE except the console (it just takes commands and doesn't do anything until the dialog is closed). This is fine, the problem is (at least for me) that once the IDE does freeze even if you close the blocking dialog it's too late once the workspace hangs that's it. Closing the dialog now will not stop the IDE hanging. You have to launch the task manager and kill the IDE then reopen it possibly losing unsaved work. This is why I consider it a bug, not so much the hanging but the fact it doesn't recover.

Subject: Re: Does the IDLDE regularly hang for anyone else?

Posted by [b_gom](#) on Mon, 23 Sep 2013 21:39:19 GMT

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The problems I'm running into might be slightly different. Here's all I can say:

- 1) they are random in time. Sometimes my session lasts for an hour, sometimes 5 minutes.
- 2) sometimes the IDE remains responsive in that I can click the menu buttons, for example 'compile', and the "IDL> .compile -v 'name'" line shows up in the console, but the compiler doesn't actually do anything. The editor does not take input, and no other commands execute in the console
- 3) they don't seem to be related to execution of a specific piece of code. Sometimes the session hangs just when editing, sometimes it hangs when I try to run a program, sometimes it hangs when a file dialog or some other GUI interface is being used.

I'm not sure if the debugger could be implicated somehow, but I've also noticed oddities with the debugging mode breakpoints. Often these seem to jump around or get duplicated while editing code and compiling.

It could also be an issue with the Dell Precision workstations that we use. I have had strange network-related problems in the past with LabView that only seem to occur on certain Dell machines. It's worth noting, though, that IDL is the only program on my current workstations that is giving me any kind of trouble.

I think I'll try pulling out software piece by piece and reinstalling to see if that helps.

On Sunday, September 22, 2013 6:26:32 PM UTC-6, timoth...@gmail.com wrote:

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Subject: Re: Does the IDLDE regularly hang for anyone else?
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 23 Sep 2013 22:01:26 GMT
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b_gom@hotmail.com writes:

> I think I'll try pulling out software piece by piece and reinstalling to see if that helps.

I haven't responded because I don't honestly remember IDL 8.2, but I have a 64-bit version of IDL (8.2.3) running pretty much constantly on my Windows 7 machine and I have never experienced problems of the sort you describe. Occasionally IDL will crash, but always when I am object programming, and I presume this has to do with the object cleanup routines. I've never seen IDL crash for no reason or at random times, as far as I can recall. Sometimes IDL runs for days or weeks at a time. I just don't ever close it.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
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Sepore ma de ni thue. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Does the IDLDE regularly hang for anyone else?

Posted by [Matt Francis](#) on Mon, 23 Sep 2013 22:37:01 GMT

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Since moving from IL7 to IDL8, the IDLDE crashes a lot for me. This is running on Linux. As with David, I find this happens when programming objects. I haven't yet been able to reproduce a specific crash in order to report a bug.

One thing I noticed is that it can sometimes crash (but not always) if I compile a running .pro. Under IDL7 I got lazy and realised that instead of stopping then re-compiling, the re-compile button effectively does both, saving a mouse click and delaying carpal tunnel a little bit longer. This worked fine under IDL7 but will crash the IDLDE under IDL8 too often to make it worthwhile. I'm trying to break the habit with mixed success.

Subject: Re: Does the IDLDE regularly hang for anyone else?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 23 Sep 2013 23:05:12 GMT

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Bogdanovist writes:

> One thing I noticed is that it can sometimes crash (but not always) if I compile a running .pro. Under IDL7 I got lazy and realised that instead of stopping then re-compiling, the re-compile button effectively does both, saving a mouse click and delaying carpal tunnel a little bit longer. This worked fine under IDL7 but will crash the IDLDE under IDL8 too often to make it worthwhile. I'm trying to break the habit with mixed success.

Ah, there was a problem, finally corrected, but I am not sure in which version of IDL 8.x, that involved recompiling main-level programs that had stopped with an error. I do remember crashes and huge annoyance with this, until I retrained my fingers to type .reset before re-compiling stopped main-level programs. I never had this problem with procedures and functions.

Cheers,

David

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Subject: Re: Does the IDLDE regularly hang for anyone else?

Posted by [timothyja123](#) on Mon, 23 Sep 2013 23:24:26 GMT

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> version of IDL 8.x, that involved recompiling main-level programs that
> had stopped with an error. I do remember crashes and huge annoyance with
> this, until I retrained my fingers to type .reset before re-compiling
> stopped main-level programs. I never had this problem with procedures
> and functions.

I tracked down an issue and reported it where IDL would crash when using .reset then recompiling. The issue I was having is due to instabilities with the XML object component. This is still an issue in 8.2.3.

Subject: Re: Does the IDLDE regularly hang for anyone else?

Posted by [b_gom](#) on Wed, 25 Sep 2013 17:44:23 GMT

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I should clarify that these problems are with IDL 8.2.3, but I also had problems with the earlier 8.2 release.

Yesterday I uninstalled IDL and removed all traces of JAVA on my machine. I reinstalled IDL, and so far today everything seems ok. I'll wait and see if JAVA was to blame.

On Monday, September 23, 2013 4:01:26 PM UTC-6, David Fanning wrote:

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