Subject: File units (de)allocation in IDL - what is the proper way?
Posted by DAVIDE LENA on Fri, 22 Jul 2016 09:05:02 GMT

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Hello everyone,
when opening files to write outputs I usually do:

```
OPENW, unit1, 'file1.txt', /GET_LUN
OPENW, unit2, 'file2.txt', /GET_LUN
...
CLOSE, unit1
CLOSE, unit2

FREE_LUN, unit1
FREE_LUN, unit2
```

However, it seems that closing *and freeing* can be equally achieved with:

```
CLOSE, unit1, unit2, /ALL
```

Is this correct? Is there a best practice?
Thanks in advance.
Dave

Subject: Re: File units (de)allocation in IDL - what is the proper way?
Posted by Helder Marchetto on Fri, 22 Jul 2016 09:51:03 GMT

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On Friday, July 22, 2016 at 11:05:09 AM UTC+2, Dave wrote:
> Hello everyone,
> when opening files to write outputs I usually do:
>
> OPENW, unit1, 'file1.txt', /GET_LUN
> OPENW, unit2, 'file2.txt', /GET_LUN
> ...
> CLOSE, unit1
> CLOSE, unit2
>
> FREE_LUN, unit1
> FREE_LUN, unit2
>
> However, it seems that closing *and freeing* can be equally achieved with:
>
> CLOSE, unit1, unit2, /ALL
>
> Is this correct? Is there a best practice?
> Thanks in advance.

> Dave

I don't think so.
These commands:

CLOSE, unit1
CLOSE, unit2

are the same as

CLOSE, unit1, unit2

But this command could do much more:

CLOSE, unit1, unit2, /all

In fact it will close *all* open units. And you don't need to specify the units at all. In other words it is equivalent to:

CLOSE, /ALL

Now you should see the problem: If you have other units open, this will close them. So it is only useful if you lost track of open units and you want to close them all... Otherwise you might close units that you don't want to close at all.

I hope this helps.

Cheers,
Helder

Subject: Re: File units (de)allocation in IDL - what is the proper way?
Posted by Markus Schmassmann on Fri, 22 Jul 2016 10:43:37 GMT
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On 07/22/2016 11:05 AM, Dave wrote:
> when opening files to write outputs I usually do:
>
> OPENW, unit1, 'file1.txt', /GET_LUN
> OPENW, unit2, 'file2.txt', /GET_LUN
> ...
> CLOSE, unit1
> CLOSE, unit2
>
> FREE_LUN, unit1
> FREE_LUN, unit2
>
> However, it seems that closing *and freeing* can be equally achieved with:

>
> CLOSE, unit1, unit2, /ALL
>
> Is this correct? Is there a best practice?

not correct, CLOSEing a unit doesn't free it's lun, meaning the file is
closed but the lun number is blocked and cannot be allocated for opening
another process.
However, FREE_LUN implies closing a file if it is not already closed.

For the rest, Herders remarks apply - except that FREE_LUN doesn't have
an /ALL keyword.

So, FREE_LUN, unit1, unit2 would be correct, using separate lines is
only necessary if you need to retrieve the EXIT_STATUS.

Markus Schmassmann

 https://www.harrisgeospatial.com/docs/understanding__luns_.h tml
https://www.harrisgeospatial.com/docs/FREE_LUN.html