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Subject: IDL background job quits without error message

Posted by [trisb](#) on Fri, 04 Aug 2017 08:54:01 GMT

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Hello everyone,

I keep on getting this weird problem that an IDL (v8.5) job running in the background on an Ubuntu 16.04.1 LTS server quits unexpectedly without any cause to be found. No clue what's happening.

Here is what I am doing. The job is started as follows:

```
idl my_list_of_commands.txt >& logfile &
```

the my\_list\_of\_commands.txt file contains only to lines:

```
my_programme  
exit
```

with "my\_programme" being a data reduction pipeline. The server has 44 double-threaded cores and tons of memory. I usually run several (up to 8) of these jobs in parallel. However, after several hours they will have quit unexpectedly without any error. It is not linked to a specific function/procedure inside the code and may happen at any place. The logfiles just show the last line of whatever comment the code put out as it runs through the job. Neither memory nor cores run out of resources - even though the jobs are memory intensive, they use up only 1-2% of the total memory each.

Other non-IDL programmes do not show this behaviour. Any hint of what might be happening?

Thanks,  
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Subject: Re: IDL background job quits without error message

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Fri, 25 Aug 2017 14:04:42 GMT

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On Friday, August 4, 2017 at 4:54:04 AM UTC-4, trisb wrote:

> Other non-IDL programmes do not show this behaviour. Any hint of what might be happening?

Process limits may be kicking in. Try using 'ulimit' (bash shell) or 'limit' ([t]csh shell) to see what your CPU time limit is.

Craig

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