
Subject: Re: Memory allocation problem using Call_external

Posted by [rivers](#) on Tue, 14 May 1996 07:00:00 GMT

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In article <Pine.SGI.3.91.960514113737.26660A-100000@leda.ieec.fcr.es>, Oscar Chic <chic@ieec.fcr.es> writes:

>

> I'm trying to run a C program using the Call_external interface.

> The C program does some mallocs.

>

> It seems IDL doesn't permit allocate memory to C program.

> It's not possible to do this ?

There is no problem with a C program doing mallocs in call_external from IDL.

However, the mallocs must be for memory which is only used by functions inside the C routines, it cannot be used to allocate memory for variables which are passed to/from IDL. If you must allocate memory for IDL variables from C functions then you must use the LINKIMAGE interface.

I generally prefer to use two CALL_EXTERNAL calls: the first to figure out how much memory to allocate; create the variables in IDL; pass the newly allocated variables to a second CALL_EXTERNAL call.

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