
Subject: Freeing memory
Posted by [Phil Williams](#) on Tue, 10 Sep 1996 07:00:00 GMT
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Is it my imagination or is idl not freeing all the memory it uses for procedures and functions?

Here's what I did to check:

I have a function that reads data and does some base processing. As the procedure is running I monitor my system memory using SGI's sysmon. After the function is complete I use some % of memory.

```
IDL> help,/mem  
heap memory in use: 13710221, calls to MALLOC: 25781, FREE: 25676
```

I then save all the data to a file and quit idl.

I then start idl and restore the data and compile the function and there is less memory used.

```
IDL> help,/mem  
heap memory in use: 13709644, calls to MALLOC: 119, FREE: 14
```

My question is why? And why is there very little discrepancy in the help,/mem for the heap used? The sysmon looks like a lot more than a 1% difference?

I realize that this ain't too scientific, but the question still remains.

Thanks in advance,

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```
/*****  
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```