
Subject: Re: Memory Hard Limits in IDL5?

Posted by [Stein Vidar Hagfors H](#) on Fri, 17 Oct 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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Elaine Chapin wrote:

```
>  
> I am using a machine with 4 Gigabytes of RAM. I enter idl5 and  
> say  
>  
> aa=fltarr(23170,23170)  
>  
> which should use only 23170*23170*4=2147395600 bytes=1.99 Gigabytes  
> and yet I get the message  
>  
> % Unable to allocate memory: to make array.  
> Not enough space  
> % Execution halted at: $MAIN$  
>  
> I thought that all the hard limits were supposed to be gone from  
> idl5? Any suggestions or comments?
```

It would be nice to know what platform you're using.. but:

My guess is that you're having trouble with the memory limit set by your shell, effective for its child processes:

To see the limits that are in effect, just type

```
unix> limit
```

Try e.g.,

```
unix> limit memoryuse 4096m  
unix> limit vmemoryuse 4096m  
unix> limit datasize 4096m
```

and restart IDL.

Speaking of limit(1), how many times has any one of you *looked* at the contents of a core file?

Try

```
unix> limit coredumpsize 0
```

and you'll never need to wait for a core to be dumped again, and you won't get your disk space eaten up by huge dumps.

