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Subject: Memory limits for Unix IDL

Posted by [John Varsik](#) on Mon, 27 Oct 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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Is there a limit to how much virtual memory (other than the total amount of swap space) the Unix versions of IDL will use? If so, how do I set it?

John Varsik

varsik@sunflower.bbso.njit.edu

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Subject: Re: Memory limits for Unix IDL

Posted by [Bruce Macintosh](#) on Thu, 06 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan wrote:

>  
> John Varsik wrote:  
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>> total amount of swap space) the Unix versions of IDL will use?  
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>  
> Use  
>  
> unix> limit  
>  
> to see which limits are available. On e.g., Digital Unix there  
> is a limit for "vmemoryuse", which determines the amount of  
> virtual memory (i.e., swap space) that may be used.  
>  
> Stein Vidar

I don't think IDL's use of memory is set just by available swap space. I've tried running on Sparcs with plenty of swap space (and vmemoryuse "unlimited" according to limit) but little physical memory (32 or 64MB), and I can't create more than a couple of 256x256x100 real arrays before running out of space. Otherwise-identical machines with 128MB or 256MB can create many more arrays. IDL seems to be aware in some fashion of how much physical memory is available, and unwilling to use more than that amount. (Note that, of course, with many users/processes it'll be forced to swap anyway...)

Is this documented anywhere?

Bruce Macintosh

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Subject: Re: Memory limits for Unix IDL  
Posted by [alpha](#) on Fri, 07 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT  
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Bruce Macintosh <bmac@igpp.llnl.gov> writes:  
> Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan wrote:  
>> John Varsik wrote:  
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>>> total amount of swap space) the Unix versions of IDL will use?  
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> swap space.

right,

we have 1 GB over RAM and 2 GB of swap...

we worked with IDL using 1.5 GB with arrays at the same time..

slow but stable

Panther

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Panther in the Jungle  
-BELIEVE AND DECEIVE-  
<http://www.ang-physik.uni-kiel.de/~hendrik>

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Subject: Re: Memory limits for Unix IDL  
Posted by [Achim Hein](#) on Fri, 07 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT  
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Bruce Macintosh wrote:  
>  
> Stein Vidar Hagfors Haugan wrote:  
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> memory is available, and unwilling to use more than that amount.  
> (Note that, of course, with many users/processes it'll be forced  
> to swap anyway...)  
>  
> Is this documented anywhere?  
>  
> Bruce Macintosh  
> bmac@igpp.llnl.gov  
There is a help file in IDL5 'Environment Variables Used by IDL'. There  
you can read i.e. how to control the initial size of memory allocated to  
hold IDL arrays and the amount of memory allocated when the array memory  
block must be extended dynamically. BUT IT IS SHOWN FOR VMS - AND IT  
DOESN'T WORK - AND I DON'T KNOW WHY sorry ?

Achim Hein

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