Subject: Re: Memory deallocate problem
Posted by Liam Gumley on Fri, 27 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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Ying Jin wrote:
> Does anyone know the mechanism of memory deallocation of IDL ?
> My problem is :
> When I open several big arrays, I literally exhaust all the available
> memory, but I need more. And I don't care to deallocate the memory
> for the previous arrays.
> I have digged through the help and manual of the IDL version 4.0.3.
> It turns out that IDL seems to not want user to tackle the issue by
> themselves.

IDL isn't going to change in a hurry, so you've got to adapt. Here's some strategies:

(1) Don't use huge arrays. Spend a few minutes thinking about the problem, and see if you can come up with an algorithm that handles the problem in more reasonable chunks.

(2) Whenever you're done processing a large array, make sure you use TEMPORARY() to undefine it, e.g. TVSCL, TEMPORARY(IMAGE). This makes a big difference if you use it consistently. David Fanning's UNDEFINE program (http://www.dfanning.com/programs/undefine.pro) is very useful in this respect.

(3) If you're using a PC or Mac, buy more memory. On a PC 32MB can be had for $75 or less, so why not stick and extra 64MB in that old PC.

Cheers,
Liam.

Subject: Re: Memory deallocate problem
Posted by davidf on Fri, 27 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT
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Ying Jin (yjin@eosdis.atmos.uah.edu) writes:

> Does anyone know the mechanism of memory deallocation of IDL ?
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> memory, but I need more. And I don't care to deallocate the memory
> for the previous arrays.

Maybe I'm missing the point, but if you don't *want* to deallocate the memory, why would you be interested in what

deallocation mechanism IDL uses?

What you need is more virtual memory. If you have the jack, you can buy a bigger disk (or allocate more on the one you have). If you have a systems administrator, you can give him your first-born son. It's up to you. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: http://www.dfanning.com/