
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.

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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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- > 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

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting
E-Mail: davidf@dfanning.com
Phone: 970-221-0438
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
