
Subject: Strange memory consumption?

Posted by [Alex Schuster](#) on Fri, 16 Oct 1998 07:00:00 GMT

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I just noticed this:

```
IDL> a = bindgen( 1000, 1000, 10 )
IDL> help, /mem
heap memory used: 10183855, max: 10183883, gets: 188,
frees: 61
IDL> a[*] = 1b
IDL> help, /mem
heap memory used: 10183906, max: 50183966, gets: 192,
frees: 63
```

I create a 10 MB array, and initialize it, using the [*] notation. It seems that the asterisk is substituted by a `bindgen(10000000L)`, which takes another 40 MB! And I always believed this method was very efficient.

This workaround does it better:

```
IDL> a = bindgen( 1000, 1000, 10 )
IDL> help, /mem
heap memory used: 10183855, max: 10183883, gets: 188,
frees: 61
IDL> a = temporary(a) * 0b + 1b
IDL> help, /mem
heap memory used: 10183920, max: 10183948, gets: 191,
frees: 62
```

Voila, no additional memory needed. This is also a lot faster.

```
** Structure !VERSION, 5 tags, length=40:
ARCH      STRING  'sparc'
OS        STRING  'sunos'
OS_FAMILY STRING  'unix'
RELEASE   STRING  '5.1'
BUILD_DATE STRING  'Apr 13 1998'
```

Alex

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PGP Key available