
Subject: Re: Problem with too many open files
Posted by [davidf](#) on Sat, 27 Feb 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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Phil Fischer (philf@astro.lsa.umich.edu) writes:

> I have a loop that has, among other things, the following commands:
>
> openw,1,command_file
> .
> close,1
>
> This loop will run for quite a large number of iterations and then will give me
> the following error message:
>
> % OPENW: Error opening file: /sdss3/usrdevel/philf/bin/commands.txt.
> Too many open files
>
> I have tried using free_lun but it doesn't seem to help.

This sounds like a bug, and I seem to remember something like this in an earlier version of IDL. Which version are you using?

> Any suggestions?

Well, hard-coding the logical unit number in a program like you are doing is...how should I put it...suspect programming practice at best. :-)

Does something like this work any better?

```
OpenW, lun, command_file, /Get_Lun
...
Free_Lun, lun
```

Cheers,

David

--

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Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

[Note: This follow-up was e-mailed to the cited author.]

Subject: Re: Problem with too many open files
Posted by [Richard G. French](#) on Sat, 27 Feb 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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Phil Fischer wrote:

```
>  
> I have a loop that has, among other things, the following commands:  
>  
> openw,1,command_file  
> .  
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> .  
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>  
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> the following error message:  
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> % OPENW: Error opening file: /sdss3/usrdevel/phlfb/bin/commands.txt.  
> Too many open files  
>  
> I have tried using free_lun but it doesn't seem to help.  
>
```

Try putting
HELP,/FILES
in there somewhere to see what files it thinks are open.
This openw,1 command may be a red herring, if there are other
things in the loop

Dick French

Subject: Re: Problem with too many open files
Posted by [R.Bauer](#) on Sun, 28 Feb 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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Phil Fischer wrote:

```
> I have a loop that has, among other things, the following commands:  
>  
> openw,1,command_file  
> .  
> .  
> .  
> close,1  
>  
> This loop will run for quite a large number of iterations and then will give me
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> the following error message:
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>
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>

free_lun is used to free get_lun unit numbers. You can use close ,/all.

R.Bauer
