

Thank You -- Thomas J. Gritzan

Source: http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/C_CPP/comp.lang.c/2006-09/msg01699.html

- *From:* Tom <Thomas-911@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 12 Sep 2006 08:42:37 GMT
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Thomas -- Your suggestion to malloc() out a block of memory was the perfect solution. Thank you kindly for your guidance.

My program now runs in 28% of the time it previously required!! :))
Almost 4 times faster!! That's a WOW in my book! Now my hard drive only loads up data once instead of grinding away endlessly!

Below are some details of my memory issues ...

Years ago with c++ ver 1.51 I used the huge memory model and far pointers to get beyond the 64k limits. Once I started using C++ ver 6.0 and C++ .Net the 64k limitations were no longer a factor and I could simply use globally defined arrays of complex structures and did not bother with malloc() because it seemed unnecessary.

As time went on I saw reference to malloc() in books discussing objects that manage their own memory requirements ... but I thought why bother with objects or malloc() when my program is functional?

Once I began trying to store larger and larger amounts of buffered data to speed I/O operations by using increasingly larger arrays ... the program would not compile. I did not understand why. The Thomas Gritzan suggestion led me to revisit malloc() and understand that I was exceeding the limitations of the newer C++ compilers.

I had been using the task manager to confirm the computer had reserve memory. (I even upgraded the computer memory from 512 to 1 gig as an attempt to solve the problem.) I knew the size of data I eventually wanted to buffer could exceed the previously available memory ... but I did not realize why I could not access the newer memory after I installed it. Additionally, the compiler failure happened long before my original 512 of memory was consumed. I was confused and simply did not understand what the heck was going on.

As a work around solution I guessed a ram disk would solve the problem. I had used ram disks back in the mid 80's. I posted a feel out question in here and the off topic police were fast to type away their frustrations in the form of telling me to go away. HAHAHA. They would not tell me where to go ... just that I was in the wrong user

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group. Some help that was not!! Why even bother telling someone they are off topic? Just ignore the thread and go run a few miles if you have too much frustration built up. Or better yet ... get a girl friend instead of playing the role of off topic policeman. LMAO. If your post is not part of the solution you are part of the pollution! If the request seems off topic ... show off your expertise by steering the topic towards a C based solution.

Then there is Thomas Gritzan. (The hero of this not so short story.) He realized first what the real problem was and made the recommendation that solved all my memory usage problems. Yeah, I was lost and I admit it. So much so that I did not even properly define the exact problem I had because I did not realize what it was! I was grasping for a solution and searched the user group for a ram disk discussion and found none. So I posted a very simple ram disk topic.

Now I am using malloc(), realloc() and free(). I am casting the pointer output of malloc() and realloc() to match my data structure. (The need for this casting is poorly described in the realloc() doco in my opinion.) With new familiarity using these routines I will find the continued transition to pure object usage much easier.

Thanks again >>> T. Gritzan <<<

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Am I glad I posted a ram disk question in this group? Absolutely!! It led the way to the best solution.

Am I working solely in a C/C++ environment? Yes. I use binary and text files and the C/C++ environment exclusively and fail to see how anything I attempt inside that box can be off topic.

Am I grateful to those who honestly attempted to help me with viable code even when I initially failed even to define my operating system, compiler, etc. Absolutely yes!! I learned Linux has some neat features and I will consider using it sometime in the future.

Upon a revisit of my original posting do I find T.Gritzan to be the absolutely first to use the "malloc" word. No. Another did so in a reply to a reply of a reply. Rather deep into the thread. But their first reply was an intentional joke and was intended to make fun of me and not to be of any help what-so-ever. So by then I was so tuned out that their usage of malloc and zero lack of explanation forced it into the zero box of usefulness. Utterly ignored.

For other newbs to the group who get told they are off topic, ridiculed, become the target of insider jokes, etc. Post away, repost, disguise your question in a new post with a different title. Create another user name and post again. Sooner or later a real jewel of information might come along that is hugely beneficial. And your persistence will frustrate the off topic police and give them a target

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to vent their frustrations. If you get offended by the onslaught of the self imposed police. Become a troll. Have some fun. Make the self imposed want-to-be-furors scream in agony. HAHAHA. Perhaps troll under another user name. ;) Think about that mr. policeman, because it is you who makes trolls! duh!! LOL

-- Tom

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