ISPF 3.14 Failure Resolved using ISPVCALL.

Recently I was called by a user who reported the following issues when executing ISPF 3.14 to search for certain strings in members of a partitioned dataset.

ISPF system data set allocation error – press Enter to continue. Temporary control card data set cannot be allocated.

DAIR RC = 12 dec, DARC = 970C hex.

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The user then tried the utility in batch and received:-

IEF033I JOB/SRCHFORX/STOP 2016061.0853

CPU: 0 HR 00 MIN 00.00 SEC SRB: 0 HR 00 MIN 00.00 SEC ISRSUPC – MVS/PDF FILE/LINE/WORD/BYTE/SFOR COMPARE UTILITY- ISPF FOR z/OS SRCH DSN: --- DATA SET NAME UNAVAILABLE ISRS056E "SRH" FILE/DATA SET NAME/MEMBER IS INVALID OR AN ERROR WAS ENCOUNTERED DURING OPEN. OPERATION TERMINATED.

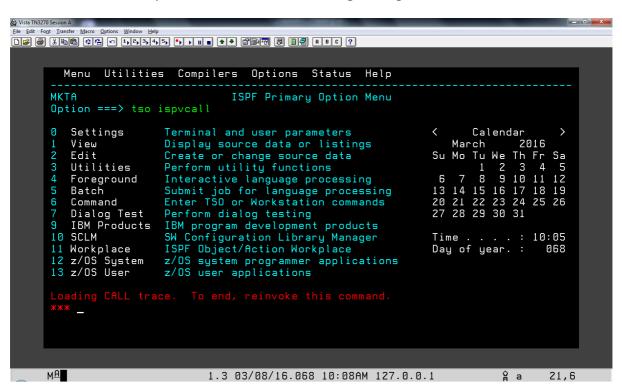
Initially when reported the first thing I checked was if the user had an existing userd.srchfor.list dataset allocated. They did so I deleted it. However when we tried the process again we received the same error. I then checked the PDS that was being scanned but it worked fine from my userid.

After checking SMS allocation routines I was a little stumped but decided to use the ISPVCALL trace program. This utility which is rarely used is a very useful tool to see what is occurring in ISPF.

The process can be invoked by issuing TSO ISPVCALL from the ISPF command line. Like this:-

```
💫 Vista TN3270 Session A
Menu Utilities Compilers Options Status Help
       MKTA
                                           ISPF Primary Option Menu
       Option ===> tso ispvcall
           Settings
                              Terminal and user parameters
                                                                                          Calendar
                              Display source data or listings
                                                                                  March
Su Mo Tu We
1 2
5 7 8 9
                                                                                                    2016
           View
                             Create or change source data
Perform utility functions
Interactive language processing
Submit job for language processing
Enter TSO or Workstation commands
                                                                                                  Th Fr Sa
3 4 5
10 11 12
17 18 19
           Edit
       2 3 4
           Utilities
                                                                                                  10
17
24
31
           Foreground
                                                                                              16
23
30
                                                                                      14 15
21 22
28 29
           Batch
                                                                                   20
                                                                                                          26
           Command
                                                                                                       25
           Dialog Test
                              Perform dialog testing
           IBM Products
                              IBM program development products
                              SW Configuration Library Manager ISPF Object/Action Workplace
           SCLM
                                                                                   Time . . . : 10:05
Day of year. : 068
       11 Workplace
12 z/OS System
13 z/OS User
                              z/OS system programmer applications
                              z/OS user applications
              Enter X to Terminate using log/list defaults
          *ISR@PRI
       ΜН
                                       0.0 03/08/16.068 10:07AM 127.0.0.1
                                                                                                          4,14
```

When started it will report back to the screen stating tracing started:-

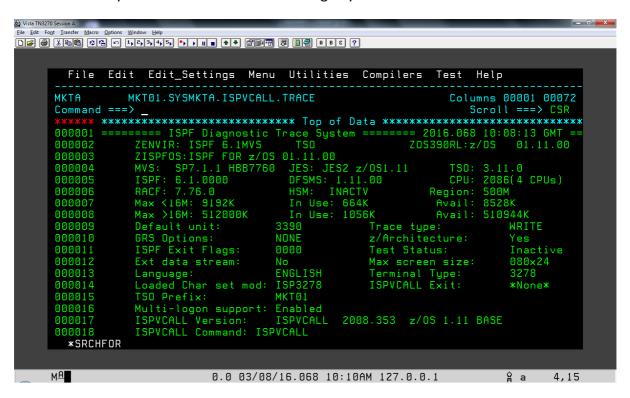


At this point I then performed the 3.14 search online.

Once I received the error again I turned the trace off by re-issuing TSO ISPVCALL.

```
💫 Vista TN3270 Session A
File Edit Edit_Settings Menu Utilities Compilers Test Help
                                                                   Columns 00001 00072
      MKTA
                 MKT01.SRCHFOR.LIST
      Command ===> tso ispvcall
                                                                      Scroll ===> CSR
             ISRSUPC - MVS/PDF FILE/LINE/WORD/BYTE/SFOR COMPARE UTILITY- ISPF LINE-# SOURCE SECTION SRCH DSN: MEERKAT.BETTER.JCL
      000001
      000002
      000003
      000004
      000005
000006
               BCTA001L
                                            ----- STRING(S) FOUND -----
                                      EXEC PGM=ASMA90, PARM='OBJ, NODECK, XREF(SHORT)'
COND=(0, NE, ASM1), PARM='AMODE=31, RMODE=24'
DD DSN=*.ASM1.SYSLIN, DISP=(OLD, DELETE)
      000007
      000008
                       //SYSLIB
      000009
      000010
               BCTP001
                                             ----- STRING(S) FOUND -----
      000012
                   10 //BASMLKED
                                      PROC
      000013
                                            PGM=ASMA90, PARM='OBJ, NODECK, XREF(SHORT)'
      000014
                   11 //ASM1
                                      EXEC
     МΑ
                              2.2 03/08/16.068 10:09AM 127.0.0.1
                                                                                   21,7
```

This then takes you into a trace dataset showing any errors:-



I then did a similar trace with a working session from my userid and compared the two for any anomalies.

I could see that the issue appeared to be related to the users' session being unable to allocate the userid.SPFTEMP1.CNTL dataset. I checked via 3.4 and noticed they already had an existing userid.SPFTEMP1.CNTL dataset. I then questioned the user who said the previous day they had a session fail while performing 3.14 searches. It would appear what had happened is that when allocating the SPFTEMPx datasets ISPF increases the number using a stored variable but when the users' session had failed ISPF had failed to increase the number from 1 to 2 in the variable. This resulted in subsequent allocation attempts to try and allocate SPFTEMP1 again but it already existed. I deleted the current userid.SPFTEMP1.CNTL dataset and then we retried the operation. This time the system allocated the dataset as expected and the 3.14 worked.

An easy solution but not so easily identified without the ISPVCALL trace utility.