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Subject: Re: IDL & Sybase

Posted by [jimf](#) on Wed, 02 Jun 1993 19:07:50 GMT

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In article <1993Jun1.201039.677@physc1.byu.edu>, goblec@physc1.byu.edu writes:

> I am looking for some IDL code that can conduct Sybase queries and  
> return the results in IDL variables. We are running IDL on a  
> Sun. A front end for Sybase from IDL would be nice also. Does  
> anyone know of anyway to do this or programs that are available  
> from the net?  
> Thanks  
>  
> Clark Goble  
> goblec@theory.byu.edu  
>

Clark -- I am doing very similar things here at NASA/Goddard  
Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD. There are two approaches  
I've gotten to work:

1. spawn a Sybase stored procedure which does the query and returns  
the results into an IDL variable. For example,

```
IDL> spawn, 'isql -Usybaseid < test.sql', results
```

where 'sybaseid' is the Sybase user ID (caution: including  
a password for the Sybase ID can be a security nightmare; see  
your Sybase documentation for suggestions on avoiding this)

test.sql is a file containing your Sybase SQL commands

'results' is an IDL variable containing the results of the query.

One problem with this method is that the output comes back as one  
huge string in the IDL variable 'results', which may be difficult  
to parse.

2. spawn a C program which uses Sybase DB-LIB routines to run  
a stored procedure. Bind the results of the query to variables  
in the program using DBBIND, then write the results to standard  
output (e.g. using printf). In this way, the individual lines  
output by the printf statements get passed into an IDL string  
variable. This string variable is easier to search through than  
the un-parsed version described in (1) above.

Example: IDL> spawn, cprog arg0 arg1, results

where cprog is your C code calling DB-LIB, arg0 and arg1 are optional arguments for passing information in (e.g. database table name, columns to query), and 'results' is the IDL string variable.

A Sybase guru formerly in my group said that method (2) will run more efficiently than (1). The down side is that you need more experience with C coding and DB-LIB. If that's not a problem I would suggest method (2).

I am using method (2) to access a bunch of file names residing in a Sybase table, from IDL. I then pass the file names to an IDL widget application, where they get displayed in a menu for selection by the user.

Give it a try..I would be curious to know if you can find any other approaches that work.

Jim Firestone

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