
Subject: Non-Blocking I/O

Posted by [Ruediger Kupper](#) on Thu, 11 Feb 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Hi!

This is a question regarding Inter Process Communication (IPC) in a UNIX environment:

Is there any way to tell IDL not to wait for the next incoming data when reading from a file?

Attempting to read from an IPC channel (a pipe or fifo) using READF or READU will cause IDL to hang until this read attempt is successful. (Pipes or fifos do not produce an EOF-signal unless they are explicitly closed by all sending processes.) This blocking behaviour is undesired if you need to check more than one IPC channel for any waiting data, or if you want to incorporate such a check into an event loop.

The only solution I can think of is to provide support for non-blocking I/O by a set of C-routines which could be linked to IDL via CALL_EXTERNAL, but I would prefer using any "pure IDL" concept.

If anyone out there ran into the same problem, this person could make a poor, frustrated IDL-programmer very happy by posting me a little hint...

Best regards,
Ruediger.
