
Subject: Problems with spawn on Linux

Posted by [ftjec](#) on Wed, 15 Dec 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Hello,

I am having problems with the spawn command on Linux. I am using the unit parameter to spawn to obtain a pipe to the child process and use this pipe to monitor the child's progress. The code I have works fine on the sun I coded it for originally -- but on linux I get very unpredictable results. Sometimes the process is spawned, yet no output is generated, sometimes it works fine, and sometimes it crashes idl completely with a "bus error" message.

Does anyone know of a solution to this problem?

Also any advice on the general state of idl on Linux would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks --

Jay

ftjec@uaf.edu

I wrote a simple test program to trick this problem:

```
pro foo
```

```
  tmpstr = "the quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog"
```

```
  unit = 69
```

```
  on_ioerror, io_err
```

```
  i = 0
```

```
  while ( 1 eq 1 ) do begin
```

```
    i = i + 1
```

```
    print, "Working on " + string(i)
```

```
    spawn, 'ls ', unit=unit, /SH
```

```
  ;-- EOF of a pipe appears to be always FALSE.  Strange.
```

```
  ;-- Just used to check that output was generated.
```

```
    while ( EOF(unit) eq 0) do begin
```

```
      readf, unit, tmpstr, format='(a)'
```

```
      print, tmpstr
```

```
    end
```

```
  goto, done
```

```
io_err:
```

```
  free_lun, unit
```

```
done:
if ( i > 10 ) then goto, finished
end
```

Here is the output on the sun machine:

```
Working on    1
foo.pro
init
status_watch.pro
Working on    2
foo.pro
init
status_watch.pro
Working on    3
foo.pro
init
status_watch.pro
Working on    4
foo.pro
init
status_watch.pro
Working on    5
foo.pro
init
status_watch.pro
Working on    6
foo.pro
init
status_watch.pro
Working on    7
foo.pro
init
status_watch.pro
Working on    8
foo.pro
init
status_watch.pro
Working on    9
foo.pro
init
status_watch.pro
Working on   10
foo.pro
init
status_watch.pro
Working on   11
foo.pro
```

```
init
status_watch.pro
```

On the linux box -- Note that everything after the 4th spawn is just failing and not generating any output. It always appears to fail, but not always at the same spot. Some times idl just crashes and dumps me back to my shell.

```
Working on      1
foo.pro
init
status_watch.pro
Working on      2
foo.pro
init
status_watch.pro
Working on      3
foo.pro
init
status_watch.pro
Working on      4
foo.pro
init
status_watch.pro
Working on      5
Working on      6
Working on      7
Working on      8
Working on      9
Working on     10
Working on     11
```

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