Subject: Re: How to call C program from IDL??
Posted by Nigel Wade on Tue, 01 Feb 2000 08:00:00 GMT
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Vineel Kumar Gattu wrote:
>
> Hi,
>
> I have a C program which I would like to call from my IDL routine.
> Can anybody give some suggestions?
>
> Thanks in advance,
> Vineel

It rather depends on what your C program does.

If it is a standalone executable then you could use the SPAWN
command to run it.

If it is a function/library which you want to link into IDL then you
need to use either CALL_EXTERNAL or LINKIMAGE (or a DLM). CALL_EXTERNAL
is the simplest to use, and if you can create all the data it uses in
IDL before you call it then that's the way to go.

If you need to return complex structures/arrays or give IDL access to
dynamically allocated data then you have to use LINKIMAGE (or a DLM).
LINKIMAGE has a much steeper learning curve and has much more potential
for completely screwing up IDL.

Take a look at the External Developement Guide. This explains both
CALL_EXTERNAL and LINKIMAGE.

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