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Subject: Re: launching web browser?

Posted by [Mark Rivers](#) on Sat, 22 Jul 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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tb wrote in message <8l7cql\$fsi\$1@ra.nrl.navy.mil>...

> Anybody got a good solution of how to launch the system default  
> web browser? Just doing  
>  
> spawn, "iexplore.exe"  
> or  
> spawn, "netscape.exe"  
>  
> is no good because I don't know if that's their browser, or even  
> if those are loaded on the system. They may use some other browser that  
> I'm not aware of.  
>  
> Or.. launch \*any\* (non-shell, i.e. windowing) app, e.g. Excel.

You spawn the command

"start <URL>" where <URL> is the Web page you want to display.

This is actually quite simple and elegant.

- The start command makes it run in the "background" so that IDL does not wait for the

browser to exit

- It launches whatever application is associated with URLs, i.e. the default browser. Note that the

browser must be correctly installed for this to work.

- If there is already a browser running it displays the page on that running browser. If there

is not already a browser running it will start a new one.

for example:

spawn("start http://cars.uchicago.edu/software/mca.html")

Mark Rivers

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