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Subject: SPAWN under Unix question

Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT

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Hey there,

I want to execute some system commands (cp, tar, rm) using SPAWN on a Linux system. Does IDL execution suspend while the OS command is executing? The reason I ask is my IDL code copies some files, tar's them up, then deletes the files. If the spawn works in the background, things can get quite muddled.

The documentation states:

"If Command is not present, SPAWN starts an interactive command interpreter process. Under UNIX, the default shell is used. IDL execution suspends until the new shell process terminates. Under UNIX, shells that handle process suspension (e.g., /bin/csh) offer a more efficient way to get the same effect."

but it doesn't say what happens if "command" is not present.

TIA

paulv

p.s. I really should pull my finger out and learn Perl, but IDL is so easy to use.....

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