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Subject: Re: SPAWN under Unix question  
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Thu, 03 Aug 2000 07:00:00 GMT  
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Yes, IDL execution is suspended when you run a command via SPAWN.  
\*Unless\* you use the UNIT keyword, \*or\* you explicitly put the command  
in the background by using "&" in the command line.

Craig

Paul van Delst <[pvandelst@ncep.noaa.gov](mailto:pvandelst@ncep.noaa.gov)> writes:

> 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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