
Subject: Re: Reading from process pipes in IDL?
Posted by [landsman](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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In article <39C9CBD4.D6CC859A@mpipsykl.mpg.de>,
Benno Puetz <puetz@mpipsykl.mpg.de> wrote:
> I have been trying to read image data from compressed (*.gz) files.
>
> While this is possible with
>
> SPAWN, "gunzip "+file+".gz"
>
> OPENR, I, file, /GETLUN
>
> READU,
>
> FREE_LUN, I
>
> I would prefer a way similar to PERL's
>
> open(FILE, "gzip -cd \$file |");
>
> ...
>
> since it would not have to decompress/compress to disk.
>
> Is this at all possible with IDL?

In V5.3, the /COMPRESS keyword was introduced to OPENR, which allows you to directly access gzip'ed files in an OS-independent way. I've been quite happy with this feature -- you can read compressed files almost completely transparently. One thing to watch out for, is that although POINT_LUN works on compressed files, it is much slower than on regular files, since IDL always has to reset to the beginning on each POINT_LUN call for compressed files.

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