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Subject: Re: Reading from process pipes in IDL?  
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 2000 07:00:00 GMT  
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Benno Puetz <puetz@mpipsykl.mpg.de> writes:

> 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?

If you are running on a Unix-type operating system, then you can give my seekable pipes library a try. You can open a gzip'ed or compress'ed file and they will automatically be unzipped on the fly as you access them. You can also open any piped stream, not just gzipped files.

In addition you can seek to anywhere in the (uncompressed) file or pipe. The only restriction is that you must have enough temporary disk space to hold the unzipped file.

Here it is, listed under Input/Output:

<http://cow.physics.wisc.edu/~craigm/idl/idl.html>

Craig

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