Subject: Re: Reading from process pipes in IDL?
Posted by George N. White III on Thu, 21 Sep 2000 07:00:00 GMT
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On Thu, 21 Sep 2000, Benno Puetz 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?
> --
> Benno Puetz
> Kernspintomographie
> Max-Planck-Institut f. Psychiatrie
                                          Tel.: +49-89-30622-413
> Kraepelinstr. 10
                                     Fax: +49-89-30622-520
> 80804 Muenchen, Germany
```

If your system (OS/2, unix, ??) supports named pipes, you can use them for this sort of problem, although I have never tried them with IDL. Use "mknod pipename p" to create a named pipe, then start a background process to stuff data into the pipe, (e.g., "gzcat file.gz > pipename & "). In your program, "pipename" is read as if it was an ordinary file, except that you can't do things like Fortran backspace or rewind, or memory mapped I/O.

George N. White III <gnw3@acm.org> Bedford Institute of Oceanography