
Subject: Re: using SPAWN to work with Windows NT network directories

Posted by [m.hadfield](#) on Mon, 04 Jun 2001 22:33:49 GMT

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From: "Craig Markwardt" <craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu>

> differentiable@hotmail.com (Lucas Miller) writes:

>

>> i'm trying to use spawn to create a directory on our Windows network

>> server.

>> i can do this locally with the following commands:

>>

>> IDL> cd, 'c:\temp'

>> IDL> spawn, 'md mydirname'

>>

>> will make a directory 'c:\temp\mydirname'. When I try this across the

>> network

>> however, eg.,

>>

>> IDL> cd, '\\Devsrvr\Users\me\'

>> IDL> spawn, 'md mydirname'

>

> I've left my DOS experience way in the past, but I do remember that

> "cd c:\temp" didn't necessarily put you on the C: drive, (or devsrvr,

> or whatever). You may be making a mydirname directory somewhere else?

>

> Can you specify the full path explicitly?

>

> spawn, 'md \\Devsrvr\Users\me\mydirname'

The problem is that the working directory for a Windows CMD shell cannot be a UNC name, i.e.

```
cd, '\\Devsrvr\Users\me\'
```

doesn't work (and if you try it in an interactive shell it will tell you so). So you could specify the full path explicitly, as Craig suggests, or you could map \\Devsrvr\Users\me to a drive letter. (BTW, I find that using UNC names for network drives can slow Windows NT down horribly, so they're best avoided.)

As to *why* the CMD shell cannot use a UNC working directory, I have no idea. Nor can I recall right now why I haven't switched to Linux yet.

Mark Hadfield

m.hadfield@niwa.cri.nz <http://katipo.niwa.cri.nz/~hadfield>

National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research

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