

---

Subject: Re: Fortran + IDL

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Mon, 20 Aug 2001 20:22:48 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

fskhk@puknet.puk.ac.za (Helena Kruger) writes:

> I am working in Fortran (with a complicated program) and IDL. Up to  
> now I put the output of the fortran data in a text file, go to IDL,  
> read the text file in IDL and draw the graphs. For every small change  
> in fortran I have to go in and out the fortran program and IDL  
> program. Will it be easier and better to use ActiveX or Callable IDL  
> under Windows? How and where can I learn to make the linkage?

Stein Vidar's response spawned a thought. Why aren't you using SPAWN?

One point of any programming language is to proceduralize mundane tasks so you don't have to keep doing the tasks yourself.

You could start with something like this:

```
pro dofortran, array
;; Call fortran program
spawn, 'runfortran', output

;; Determine number of elements in array - assume it's a 3xN array
n = n_elements(output)
array = fltarr(3,n)

for i = 0L, n-1 do begin
    v0 = [0., 0., 0.]
    reads, output(i), v0
    array(*,i) = v0
endfor

return
end
```

Obviously you will have to customize for your program name and the number of variables, etc.

Craig

---