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Subject: Re: Read Total lines in an ASCII file  
Posted by [thompson](#) on Wed, 18 Dec 2002 22:51:57 GMT  
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wmc@bas.ac.uk writes:

(stuff deleted)

>> Spawning "wc -l" is the slowest. Note that this is on Windows 2000 with the  
>> Cygwin "wc" command. Unix is much faster at spawning subprocesses than  
>> Windows, so method 1b may be competitive there.

> How interesting. Thanks for doing all this. I would certainly hope that  
> spawn would be a bit faster under unix. I have a slight feeling that there  
> are options to spawn that can make it a bit faster (something about not  
> copying the env perhaps?).

The way this is done in Unix is to use the /noshell command, e.g.

```
spawn, 'wc -l '+filename, result ;Slower  
spawn, ['wc','-l',filename], result, /noshell ;Faster
```

Bill Thompson

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