
Subject: Problem with SPAWN()

Posted by [sciprogrammer](#) on Tue, 21 Jan 2003 00:18:36 GMT

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I'm having trouble with the SPAWN() command. When I load-level IDL using lsrn (part of the LSF suite of load-balancing software) I see a strange problem where calls to SPAWN() produce a "no such file or directory" error. This happens with even very simple commands. Here's an example:

Start with a very simple .pro file that spawns the pwd command:

```
% cat test2.pro
spawn,'/bin/pwd'
exit
```

Load-level IDL using lsrn:

```
% lsrn -m "lsf002" idl test2
[...usual IDL startup message...]
% SPAWN: Error managing child process.
  No such file or directory
```

That fails, but if I load-level the pwd command directly it works:

```
% lsrn -m "lsf002" /bin/pwd
/u/burruss
```

I can also get this to work if I use SPAWN() with the NOSHELL keyword as in this example:

```
spawn,['/bin/pwd'],/noshell
exit
```

The only thing I can think of is that perhaps the "no such file or directory" message comes from IDL trying to start up a non-existent shell. Does anyone have any ideas about this? How does SPAWN() select which shell to start?

The platforms I'm using are Tru64 5.1, HP-UX 11i, and RedHat 7.3 Linux. I'm using IDL version 5.5.

Justin
