
Subject: Re: getpid in Mac Os X

Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Fri, 11 Jun 2004 15:36:36 GMT

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```
> IDL>pid=CALL_EXTERNAL('/usr/lib/libc.dylib','getpid')
> % CALL_EXTERNAL: Error loading sharable exectuble.
> Symbol: getpid, FILE=/usr/lib/libc.dylib
> not a Mach-O MH-BUNDLE file type
```

I am no OS X expert nor a CALL_EXTERNAL expert, but I nevertheless have a theory about what's happening. You might want to double-check this theory with RSI to make sure that I'm not way off base.

It seems that IDL is looking for a file with the MH_BUNDLE file type flag. MH_BUNDLE is typically used by code which is loaded at runtime. The file extension on such files is .bundle.

The /usr/lib/libc.dylib has MH_DYLIB as the file type flag. MH_DYLIB is meant for dynamic shared libraries. I'm not sure why IDL can't load this file at runtime as it can on Linux, but my guess is that the library is only "shared" in the linker sense of the term rather than the executable sense. Keep in mind this is just a guess -- I don't know enough of the internal workings of OS X libraries to say for sure.

Whatever the case, a better solution to the problem would be to create a little DLM as an interface into the libc library rather than trying to call commands out of the library directly. On OS X, you could create a bundle file which calls the getpid() function in libc. IDL shouldn't have a problem loading this bundle.

-Mike
