
Subject: Re: Command line arguments

Posted by [Mr. No Address](#) on Thu, 17 Feb 2005 16:23:48 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> Mr. No Address writes:

>

>

>> If I understand your first question above correctly, I'm compiling
>> first because "Way back in the day" I was never able to successfully run
>> code without compiling it first. I'm sure I was doing something wrong,

>

>

> No doubt. :-)

>

> This article might be useful to you:

>

> <http://www.dfanning.com/tips/namefiles.html>

It was. Thanks. In fact, self compiling worked so easily that I was left wondering what I was doing wrong way back when. With some local help I also have solved the Perl/IDL passing args issue that I'll describe below for the next person.

Key words for google searches:

passing command line arguments args Perl IDL script code execute
executing system command commands

There were two problems I had. One was simply passing an argument from within a Perl script to my IDL code. The second was getting Perl to wait for the IDL process to finish before executing subsequent lines of code.

Perl Code:

```
open(IDL, "|/usr/local/bin/idl") || die "Can't open IDL: $!";  
print IDL "idlprog, '$arg_to_pass' \n";  
print IDL "\$mv idl.ps renamed_file.ps\n";  
close IDL;
```

The middle two print lines can be within a loop so you don't have to open an IDL process for every iteration. I had to have the IDL process rename the postscript file instead of doing:

```
`mv idl.ps renamed_file.ps`
```

or else Perl would zip by the first print statement and then fail to find the idl.ps file. See

<<http://archive.stsci.edu/iue/manual/dacguide/node8.html>> for executing system commands from IDL.

IDL Code:
PRO idlprog, passed_arg
