Subject: Re: Command line arguments Posted by Mr. No Address on Thu, 17 Feb 2005 16:23:48 GMT View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

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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

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