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Subject: Re: Q: call\_external hangs IDL Windows GUI?  
Posted by [Joshua Lynch](#) on Fri, 22 Apr 2005 18:49:22 GMT  
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Do DLMS suffer the same blocking problem under Windows?

Thanks for the response!

--josh

b\_gom@hotmail.com wrote:

> Joshua,  
>  
> call\_external does block in Windows (there is no multithreading in the  
> IDL interpreter) You can, however, call an external function that  
> starts a thread and then returns quickly to IDL. You will have to sort  
> out the messaging between the threads on your own though.  
>  
> Good luck,  
>  
> Brad  
>  
> Joshua Lynch wrote:  
>> Hello,  
>> I have an application that uses call\_external to call a C function  
>> which waits for some network input and then returns. Unfortunately  
>> it seems that entire IDL IDE hangs for every call to call\_external.  
>>  
>> Is this, in fact, a correct assumption?  
>>  
>> I've tested the same application under Unix and it does not hang the  
>> IDE.  
>>  
>> It seems as though when I'm running the application and don't click  
>> anywhere in the IDE, it runs fine (sort of, it prints its data out 2,  
>> 3, 4 five lines at a time, instead of smoothly, one at a time). As  
>> soon as I click anywhere in the IDE the menu bar disappears and if I  
>> click again the title bar displays the dreaded "Application Not  
>> Responding" string.  
>>  
>> My guess is that the IDE is stopped while waiting for the C function  
>> to return?  
>>  
>> Am I missing something simple?  
>>  
>> Thanks in advance.

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>>  
>>  
>> --josh  
>
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