
Subject: Re: spawn and 'ls *.out'

Posted by [Allan Whiteford](#) on Wed, 20 Sep 2006 08:16:23 GMT

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Fiç½LDY Lajos wrote:

```
>
> On Tue, 19 Sep 2006, queiny98@yahoo.com wrote:
>
>> Dear IDL experts,
>>
>> Can I use '*' and '?' in the UNIX commands through 'spawn'?
>>
>> When I try:
>>
>>> spawn, ['ls', 'data/2003????'], /noshell
>>
>> Cannot access data/2003????: No such file or directory
>>
>> I have files like '20030101', '20030102', etc. in this directory.
>> It seems 'spawn' interpolate '?' directly or literally. How could I let
>> IDL know?
>>
>> Thanks.
>>
>
> * and ? are evaluated by the shell. ls (and any other program) gets real
> filenames. Omit the /noshell keyword.
>
> regards,
> lajos
>
```

Also, note than when you remove the /noshell your command becomes more like:

```
spawn,'ls data/2003????'
```

Be careful though that the user hasn't alias 'ls' to do something else, it can sometimes be safer to do:

```
spawn,'\ls data/2003????'
```

the '\ls' is a standard unix feature which ignores any aliases. Of course, some idiot could have replaced their ls binary but that's less likely than having an alias present. Lots of modern linux distributions have built in --color etc, I personally have: 'ls -h --color -F'. If you're going to capture the output via something like:

```
spawn,'\ls data/2003????',output
```

then you really don't want all the colour codes in amongst things.

Thanks,

Allan
