
Subject: Re: spawn issue - was: open sockets

Posted by [Bringfried Stecklum](#) on Wed, 21 Mar 2007 17:13:00 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Dear JD,

thanks for this advice. I am using the XPA interface for various purposes but did not try the shm command yet. I agree that it will be much faster. So I'll give it a try.

regards,

Bringfried

JD Smith wrote:

> On Tue, 20 Mar 2007 19:35:39 +0100, Bringfried Stecklum wrote:

>

>> It is clear now that the issue is unrelated to socket but in fact caused
>> by multiple calls to spawn each of which opens a pipe to transfer the data
>> like

>>

>> spawn,'ds9 stdin',unit=unit

>> writefits,'/dev/null',image,header,unit=unit

>>

>> The problem is that after closing ds9 the pipe is still open. It seems
>> there is no way to make IDL aware that the child process no longer exists.

>

> DS9 uses XPA for passing all sorts of information indirectly via other
> programs:

>

> <http://hea-www.harvard.edu/RD/ds9/ref/xpa.html>

>

> With it, you should be able to stuff data from IDL into a shared
> memory segment, and point DS9 at that segment, setting up all view
> parameters as well. Not only would this remove the pipe issues, it
> would be much faster and more flexible as well.

>

> JD

>

>
