
Subject: Re: Need help with basic spawn command
Posted by [Trae](#) on Tue, 22 May 2007 12:55:54 GMT
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Sorry for jumping on this thread late.

Why don't you use a combination of `make_dll` and `call_external` to have IDL call your C code? I do a lot of number crunching in IDL and write C codes to do much of the tedious but large jobs. These are the procedures I use to get C and IDL to talk to each other.

The learning curve on these procedures is not bad and I've had great success with them. It also sounds easier than what you are trying to do with `printf` and if you are worried about time, nothing takes longer than reading files. `Call_external` allows you to pass variables.

Cheers,
-Trae

Cheers,

On May 17, 9:32 am, ryans...@gmail.com wrote:

> On May 17, 2:45 am, Yi <yi.se...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>

>

>> IDL's spawn procedure can't get the return value from C program.

>> Of course, you can get the result using second argument like this :

>

>> IDL> spawn, 'basic', result

>

>> In this case, the result variable is not the return value of main

>> function(C Program)

>> but the output text result of the 'basic' command in Shell(Unix) or

>> Command Prompt(MS Windows)

>

>> The 'result' variable is string array, so it can catch multi lines

>> text output.

>

>> Anyway, if you want to use spawn procedure, the C program should be

>> modified.

>

>> I expect that you can get result if you insert,

>

>> `printf("%d", n);`

>

>> into your C code.

>

```
>
>>> Im running IDL on XP.
>
>>> I have this basic C code:
>
>>> #include <stdlib.h>
>
>>> int main()
>>> {
>
>>>     int n=5;
>>>     n=n*2;
>>>     return n;}
>
>>> //This file is basic.c
>
>>>> From IDL, I just want to call this program and return n.
>
>>> In IDL, I can write:
>
>>> SPAWN, 'basic'                ; this of course runs the
>>> basic.c program.
>
>>> But this doesnt return anything of course.. ive tried to add another
>>> variable after this line such as:
>>> SPAWN, 'basic', variable
>
>>> But windows doesnt like any of this...
>
>>> Can anyone help me with this basic application? With spawn in the past
>>> ive gotten it to do calculations on a variable and return them, but
>>> with no input, im unsure how to get the output.
>
>>> Thanks for any help! Ive also boughten the 'from c->dln->idl' book but
>>> it wont be in for a few days.
>
> Thank you so much, I understand now! Your right that it works when
> adding a printf to the code with the result on the spawn.
>
> I was under the impression that this would not work on windows, only
> unix, not sure why, but it does.
```
