
Subject: Re: spawn question

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Sat, 31 May 2008 11:59:56 GMT

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In article

<33a84552-1576-4ca3-a670-3f37064bf63c@59g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>, russ <rlayberry@hotmail.com> wrote:

```
> this may be a stupid question and it might be that i am an idiot,
> but...
>
> i want to spawn a process
>
> cmd='ls -l'
> spawn,cmd
>
> i am actually doing this with a GET command and it sometimes hangs
>
> if i try
>
> spawn,cmd,/nowait
>
> it tells me
>
> Keyword NOWAIT not allowed in call to: SPAWN
>
> but it says it is in the help?
```

/NOWAIT only works on Windows. Are you running on Unix/Linux/Mac OS?

Use the standard Unix syntax to run a procedure in the background

SPAWN, 'ls -l &', result

Of course, then you get this

```
IDL> spawn, 'ls -l &', result
IDL> help, result
RESULT      STRING   = Array[1]
IDL> print, result
[1] 4624
```

If you want to actually see the output of ls, you will have to run it in the foreground

```
IDL> spawn, 'ls -l', result
```

```
IDL> help, result  
RESULT      STRING  = Array[41]
```

Ken Bowman
