
Subject: Re: not so IDL related... Command line auto-feed
Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Tue, 08 Jul 2008 00:24:14 GMT
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I would first try one of the many mouse/keyboard "macro" utilities. Something like www.autohotkey.com. I haven't used this one in particular (and I can't remember what program I used to do something like this in the past) but most of these allow you to create text based scripts that drive the application. Once you work out the details you can write a program in IDL that creates the scripts given your inputs.

Another option would be to do it in VB. I've done this successfully as well. Something like:

```
Imports System.IO
Imports System.Diagnostics
Imports Microsoft.Win32

Private Declare Sub Sleep Lib "kernel32" (ByVal dwMilliseconds As Long)
Private psInfo As System.Diagnostics.ProcessStartInfo
Private process As process

exeFile = "notepad.exe"
psInfo = New System.Diagnostics.ProcessStartInfo(exeFile)
process = System.Diagnostics.Process.Start(psInfo)

process.WaitForInputIdle(3000)
System.Windows.Forms.SendKeys.SendWait("This is a test...")
System.Windows.Forms.SendKeys.SendWait("%f")
Sleep(500)
System.Windows.Forms.SendKeys.SendWait("s")
Sleep(500)
System.Windows.Forms.SendKeys.SendWait("test.txt")
Sleep(500)
System.Windows.Forms.SendKeys.SendWait("%s")
sleep(500)
```

You would of course want the application to read the inputs from a text file, start the process, send the inputs, monitor the process and then loop when the process exits. I don't know if there is an "isRunning" property for the System.Diagnostics.Process class. My guess is that there is something you could use.

Good luck!

-Rick

Jean H wrote:

> Hi all,
>
> sorry for the misuse of this forum... though one of the smart here may
> be of great help!
>
> Ok, I have to process about 200 files though a program called dem2xyzn
> (for USGS DEM files). This program runs only under windows (and dos),
> and have basically no support. You start the program, then it ask for
> the name of the input file, then for the name of the output file, then
> if you are sure you want to continue etc.
>
> I want to automate all of this...
> There seems to be no way of specifying the parameters values (input,
> output) when calling the program.
>
> Is there a way to have a text being written in the current dos window?
> something that would look like, in pseudo-code:
>
> -call the program
> -write input1
> -write input2
> -write any letter to tell the prog to continue
> =start again with another set of input?
>
> I have tried to do a batch file, but the "write input1" get executed
> after the program has resumed...
>
> Any help of hints would be greatly appreciated!!!
> Jean
