
Subject: Re: Help with Spawn

Posted by [jeffnettles4870](#) on Sat, 19 Jul 2008 19:53:30 GMT

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On Jul 19, 9:22 am, Vince Hradil <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote:

> On Jul 18, 7:37 pm, "Jeff N." <jeffnettles4...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>

>

>> On Jul 18, 1:46 pm, Vince Hradil <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote:

>

>>> On Jul 18, 12:24 pm, "Jeff N." <jeffnettles4...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>>>> On Jul 18, 10:17 am, Vince Hradil <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote:

>

>>>> > On Jul 18, 8:48 am, "Jeff N." <jeffnettles4...@gmail.com> wrote:

>

>>>> > > On Jul 18, 7:23 am, alex...@gmail.com wrote:

>

>>>> > > Hello everybody. My question is simple, yet I haven't found a

>>>> > > satisfying answer in the various guides.

>

>>>> > > I'm using spawn to call for an executable file under the Windows OS,

>>>> > > it opens a command window and executes there. The problem is, very

>>>> > > quickly I get an error and the entire command shell closes

>>>> > > momentarily. I'd want to be able to see the error it presents before

>>>> > > closing the shell, or just leave it open.

>

>>>> > > Is this possible? Is there any other way around it?

>

>>>> > > Thanks a lot for any help, Alex

>

>>>> > > Another trick i do a lot is just print out the command that you're

>>>> > > going to spawn using a print statement, then open up your own command

>>>> > > window and paste in that command. The command shell isn't going to

>>>> > > close when you do that, and I often find it's easier to fix whatever

>>>> > > mistakes i've made with the command i'm trying to issue in the actual

>>>> > > command window then go back to my IDL program and make sure it spawns

>>>> > > the fixed command.

>

>>>> > > Jeff

>

>>>> > How about using the LOG_OUTPUT keyword? Simple is good...

>

>>>> I've actually had that keyword not work for me a few times. It's

>>>> always been when the program i've tried to spawn was not an OS command

>>>> (e.g., dir, cd, etc.), and i think it was also a program where the

>>>> output wasn't outputting one line of text for each iteration but

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>>>> rather doing a sequence like print output/clear screen/print output/
>>>> etc....
>
>>>> This was a long time ago and a minor issue so i just did the cut-and-
>>>> paste-the-spawn-string trick i mentioned earlier and then moved on :)
>>>> It would be good to know, though, if this is something anyone else has
>>>> run into...
>
>>> It works for me:
>
>>> IDL> cd, 'c:\temp'
>>> IDL> spawn, 'dir', /log_output
>>> Volume in drive C has no label.
>>> Volume Serial Number is 8C6A-7ADD
>
>>> Directory of c:\temp
>
>>> 07/01/2008 11:23 AM <DIR>      .
>>> 07/01/2008 11:23 AM <DIR>      ..
>>>          0 File(s)          0 bytes
>>>          2 Dir(s) 12,076,867,584 bytes free
>>> IDL> print, !version
>>> { x86 Win32 Windows Microsoft Windows 7.0 Oct 25 2007    32    64}
>
>> Right, spawning a 'dir' command works for me too, as does any of the
>> other "internal" commands. I just tried the command line version of
>> my sFTP program however, which is not part of what used to be DOS, and
>> the keyword does not work. I'm guessing it has to do with the way
>> text is written to stout somehow?? Anyway this is on IDL 6.2 and WinXP
>> SP3.
>
> Oh, I see - I misread your earlier comment. I thought you said it
> fails when it IS an internal command.
>
> Here's a little test I did with 7zip.
>
> IDL> cd, 'c:\temp'
> IDL> spawn, 'dir', /log_output
> Volume in drive C has no label.
> Volume Serial Number is 8C6A-7ADD
>
> Directory of c:\temp
>
> 07/19/2008 08:18 AM <DIR>      .
> 07/19/2008 08:18 AM <DIR>      ..
> 07/19/2008 08:18 AM          0 test.txt
>          1 File(s)          0 bytes
>          2 Dir(s) 12,129,624,064 bytes free

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> IDL> spawn, 'c:\program files\7-Zip\7z.exe ', /log_output
> 'c:\program' is not recognized as an internal or external command,
> operable program or batch file.
> IDL> spawn, '"c:\program files\7-Zip\7z.exe"', /log_output
>
> 7-Zip 4.58 beta Copyright (c) 1999-2008 Igor Pavlov 2008-05-05
>
> Usage: 7z <command> [<switches>...] <archive_name> [<file_names>...]
>     [<@listfiles...>]
>
> <Commands>
> a: Add files to archive
> b: Benchmark
> d: Delete files from archive
> e: Extract files from archive (without using directory names)
> l: List contents of archive
> t: Test integrity of archive
> u: Update files to archive
> x: eXtract files with full paths
> <Switches>
> -ai[r[-|0]]{ @listfile|!wildcard}: Include archives
> -ax[r[-|0]]{ @listfile|!wildcard}: eXclude archives
> -bd: Disable percentage indicator
> -i[r[-|0]]{ @listfile|!wildcard}: Include filenames
> -m{Parameters}: set compression Method
> -o{Directory}: set Output directory
> -p{Password}: set Password
> -r[-|0]: Recurse subdirectories
> -scs{UTF-8 | WIN | DOS}: set charset for list files
> -sfx[{name}]: Create SFX archive
> -si[{name}]: read data from stdin
> -slt: show technical information for l (List) command
> -so: write data to stdout
> -ssc[-]: set sensitive case mode
> -ssw: compress shared files
> -t{Type}: Set type of archive
> -v{Size}[b|k|m|g]: Create volumes
> -u[-][p#][q#][r#][x#][y#][z#][!newArchiveName]: Update options
> -w[{path}]: assign Work directory. Empty path means a temporary
> directory
> -x[r[-|0]]{ @listfile|!wildcard}: eXclude filenames
> -y: assume Yes on all queries
> IDL> spawn, '"c:\program files\7-Zip\7z.exe" test.txt', /log_output
>
> 7-Zip 4.58 beta Copyright (c) 1999-2008 Igor Pavlov 2008-05-05
>
> Error:
> Incorrect command line

```

```
> IDL> spawn, "c:\program files\7-Zip\7z.exe" a -tgzip test.txt.gz
> test.txt', /log_output
>
> 7-Zip 4.58 beta Copyright (c) 1999-2008 Igor Pavlov 2008-05-05
> Scanning
>
> Creating archive test.txt.gz
>
> Compressing test.txt
>
> Everything is Ok
> IDL> spawn, 'dir', /log_output
> Volume in drive C has no label.
> Volume Serial Number is 8C6A-7ADD
>
> Directory of c:\temp
>
> 07/19/2008 08:20 AM <DIR>      .
> 07/19/2008 08:20 AM <DIR>      ..
> 07/19/2008 08:18 AM          0 test.txt
> 07/19/2008 08:20 AM          32 test.txt.gz
>
>      2 File(s)          32 bytes
>      2 Dir(s) 12,129,591,296 bytes free
```

I actually thought about using my zip program as a test too, but unfortunately even if you run it from the command line it still opens up a window to report its progress in. That's the only other command line program i have anymore :(wow times have changed. Anyway, the program itself works fine when i spawn it from IDL. IDL just doesn't capture the output when you set log_output. I think your results confirm my earlier suspicion: that it's the program being spawned, not IDL (or Windows), that is causing something to happen that makes IDL unable to capture its output.
