
Subject: Re: Help with Spawn

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Sat, 19 Jul 2008 13:22:07 GMT

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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

>>> 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
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
```

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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
```

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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
```
