I am sorry I don't understand your problem... what's wrong with:

slanze-14: idl
IDL Version 6.3, Mac OS X (darwin i386 m32). (c) 2006, Research
Systems, Inc.
Installation number: XXXXX
Licensed for use by: YYYYYYYYYY
IDL> spawn,'pwd'
/a/rom-48/vol/hea1/home/pgrigis

Doesn't this work in parallel?

Ciao,
Paolo

JMZawo...@gmail.com wrote:
> I have a Mac running both OS X and Windows XP at the same time via
> Parallels Desktop for Mac. I hate the way IDL works/looks/requiresX11
> under OS X so I run IDL in a virtual machine with Windows XP.
> Unfortunately, my current project requires that I SPAWN a process
> under OS X (windows version of the software is not available). So, my
> idea is to use SPAWN to launch terminal.app with the UNIT keyword and
> use WRITEU to send commands to run the unix program. I can get SPAWN
> to launch a terminal window under OS X, but I can't write a command
> via the unit without IDL reporting that the pipe is broken and the
> process being shut down. The terminal process does not terminate
> though. I had to use the NOSHELL keyword to get the terminal process
> to spawn.
>
> So, I'm looking for either a fix or an alternative way to launch a
> command line program on the unix side. Since I need to vary the
> parameters in the command line from call to call, the usual mechanisms
> that parallels uses to launch Mac apps from the virtual machine
> probably won't work to directly launch the program I need to run. I'm
> hoping that I'm just a little rusty with my unix skills and am missing
> an obvious solution.
>
> TIA, Joe