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Subject: Re: SPAWN procedure under Windows NT  
Posted by [David.Steele](#) on Wed, 22 May 1996 07:00:00 GMT  
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In article <31A30484.30CC@larc.nasa.gov>, J.M.Zawodny@larc.nasa.gov says...

> ... I have recently run into a problem  
> with the SPAWN procedure. I'm running version 4.0.1 and have NT version  
> 3.51 on a Pentium Pro. Basically the manual says SPAWN should work under  
> windows and it does pop up a DOS box and execute the commands properly,  
> however, I cannot get it to return a result back to IDL.  
>  
> example: SPAWN,'dir /b d:\g2p',list returns list as undefined.  
>  
> I see the DOS box appear and the listing zoom by. At the end just before  
> the DOS box disappears I see another tiny window (like a dreaded Windows  
> dialog box) pop up but (and I thought I'd never say this) my system is too  
> fast and I cannot read the contents of it before it disappears. Any clues?  
>

I have no experience with NT, but the soft-cover manual that accompanies IDL  
for Windows says, on p. 47:

"The SPAWN command can be used to issue shell commands (DOS commands under  
Windows 3.1, command shell commands under Windows NT) from within IDL. Note,  
however, that the output of the command issued by SPAWN cannot be saved."

Looks like you're out of luck, in the general case. If you can redirect the  
output to a file, you can later read that in with IDL commands.

BTW, the dialog box just says something about the system waiting while the  
SPWANed command executes, but you knew that already.

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