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Subject: Re: Opening/displaying a text file  
Posted by [Maarten\[1\]](#) on Tue, 20 Jan 2009 09:17:26 GMT  
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[cut to size in various places]

On Jan 19, 2:50 pm, jimmyb...@gmail.com wrote:

> On 19 Jan, 12:18, Gaurav <selfishgau...@gmail.com> wrote:

>>> Do I need to read in the text and re-display it or can I use  
>>> a command to open that .txt file, as if it were opened separate of  
>>> IDL?

>

>> Yes, you can easily do that. Try:

>

>> SPAWN, 'notepad.exe c:\myFolder\myFile.txt', /noshell, /nowait

>

> Brilliant, worked like a charm- thanks!

Be sure to test for the OS before attempting this. Never say your code will never be used on Linux/Mac/... and spawns like this will cause trouble later on. Use !version.os\_family or !version.os to select the correct OS you will use this on. In your case you may want to provide this functionality only on Windows (at least I think that that is the correct identifier, check for yourself):

```
if !version.os_family eq 'windows' then begin
spawn, notepad.exe c:\myFolder\myFile.txt', /noshell, /nowait
endif else begin
print, 'functionality not supported'
endelse
```

By the way, on the mac the command would be:

```
spawn, "open '" + filepath + "'"
```

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