
Subject: Re: Open URL in external browser

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Wed, 17 Feb 2010 18:22:59 GMT

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On 2/17/10 11:13 AM, Rob wrote:

- > Is there a native IDL method for opening a URL (e.g.
- > [http://spidr.ngdc.noaa.gov/spidr/servlet/GetMetadata?param=i ono.WI937](http://spidr.ngdc.noaa.gov/spidr/servlet/GetMetadata?param=i%20ono.WI937))
- > in a browser? I'm not looking for a "spawn" like executive solution.
- > I'm building a tool that must work on many OS's including OSx,
- > Windows, possibly Linux.
- >
- > I looked into the "online_help" procedure which seems to work only for
- > local (a la file://) content.

Here's my solution:

http://michaelgalloy.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/02/mg_open_url.pro

It is a "spawn" solution, but has separate cases for the different operating systems. Mac OS X and Windows have nice (though different) ways to open the default web browser on the URL. On other Unix systems, a file dialog will come up to select your web browser. It will remember your choice, so you only have to choose once (I suppose I should add a keyword to force the choice so that you can change your mind later).

Mike

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