
Subject: Re: Question on: IDL link with External C program
Posted by [Christian Soeller](#) on Fri, 22 Nov 1996 08:00:00 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

. (ginger) writes:

>
> Hello to all the IDL users. I'm wondering if there is anyone there have
> experiences on how to use external C or other type of programs within IDL.
> I'm looking for ways that I can control a frame grabber and import the frame
> grabbed images into IDL for process.

The functions to look for are `call_external` and `linkimage`, both documented in the online help. Especially if you are working with `linkimage` there is also the Advanced Development Guide which comes with IDL in an online version that can be read with the Online Help application (using the file->open menu item). After working with both `call_external` and `linkimage` I normally prefer `linkimage` but `call_external` is good for quick and (not necessarily) dirty things. The biggest trouble you have in the beginning is finding the right compiler and linker flags to use on your platform (see user guide) but after that it works quite nicely.

For less complicated tasks you can also invoke standalone programs through `spawn` and catch output in an IDL string.

Best regards,

Christian

Christian Soeller [mailto: csoelle@sghms.ac.uk](mailto:csoelle@sghms.ac.uk)
St. Georges Hospital Medical School Dept. of Pharmacology
Cranmer Terrace London SW17 0RE
