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Subject: Re: Problem starting non IDL program with SPAWN

Posted by [David Grier](#) on Sat, 08 Sep 2012 11:39:10 GMT

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Dear Trifon,

This probably does not get to the heart of the problem, but the STRCOMPRESS() should not be necessary.

It's possible that your external program would be "happier" if it were run in the intended directory:

```
IDL> cd, '~/LBLRTM/lblrtm/Chip1'
IDL> spawn, 'lblrtm_v12.1_linux_gnu_dbl'
```

Also, the existence of 'TAPE5~' (with the tilde) suggests that your IDL-spawned program may have tried to process TAPE5 first and may even have generated some output, which was overwritten when you ran the program from the command line. Is TAPE5~ empty?

Your program also may rely on environment variables to find the various TAPE devices. Perhaps these aren't available in the shell that IDL is spawning. You might want to check that your SHELL environment variable is set to what you want, and that any other necessary environment variables are properly set for that shell.

Good luck,

David

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