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Subject: IDL Spawn on Windows OS

Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Sat, 29 Sep 2012 02:10:28 GMT

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I have a FITS file reader that can work with gzip compressed files. It can work much more efficiently if it can know how many bytes would be in the uncompressed file (without actually having to uncompress it.) For Unix/Mac systems I can parse the output of "gzip -l" captured with Spawn

```
IDL> spawn,'gzip -l 1904-66_HPX.fits.gz',output
```

and the 'output' variable will contain something like

```
'      compressed      uncompressed  ratio uncompressed_name'  
'      105515          161280 34.6% 1904-66_HPX.fits'
```

I am told that this will not work under Windows OS (with gzip installed), presumably because it does not know about a gzip command. Can anyone suggest a way to make this code Windows friendly? (I do not have access to IDL on a Windows machine). Thanks, --Wayne

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