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Subject: Re: Can one close only one of STDIN and STDOUT when using SPAWN with the UNIT keyword?

Posted by [bstecklu](#) on Wed, 27 Mar 2013 13:27:28 GMT

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Tom Grydeland wrote:

> Hi all,  
>  
> Some commands only produce output after all of the input has been consumed.  
> For such a command, the usual approach when given input and output streams is  
> to open both, feed the process all its input, close the input stream and then  
> read the result on the output stream.  
>  
> In IDL, when using SPAWN with the UNIT keyword, one file unit is supposed to  
> be used for both directions. Is it possible to do the above from IDL?  
>  
> For example, if the external command is a checksum program, like 'md5sum':  
>  
> IDL> SPAWN, 'md5sum', UNIT=unit  
> IDL> WRITEU, unit, 'foo'  
> IDL> {close unit in the input-to-md5sum direction}  
> IDL> READU, unit, checksum  
> IDL> {proceed with checksum}  
>  
> Can the above be done from IDL? How?  
>  
> --T (tom.grydeland@norut.no)

May be I am missing your point but

```
IDL> WRITEU, unit, 'foo' & SPAWN, 'md5sum foo', checksum
```

will give you the result in the string (array) checksum.

Bringfried

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