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Subject: "Can't create pipe" on call to spawn.

Posted by [andrew.p.walsh](#) on Wed, 17 Jul 2013 15:51:12 GMT

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Hi All,

I've come across a bit of a bizarre problem:

I have a routine that loads data from  $\sim 10^6$  individual files and partway through processing the list IDL stops being able to locate the files with `file_search` (I don't know the names of the files ahead of time).

It seems that the IDL session is locked out of the system completely, it can't locate and compile routines like `read_ascii`, can't connect to the X server to open graphics windows and I can't even retrieve a directory listing with

```
spawn, ls
```

```
or
```

```
$ls
```

This is where it returns "Can't create pipe."

Does anyone have any idea what's going on? I have version 8.2.1 on 64 bit linux (Ubuntu 12.04).

Andrew

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