
Subject: Test if a linux command is available with Spawn

Posted by [Fabzi](#) on Wed, 16 Oct 2013 12:08:51 GMT

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Hi IDLers,

I want to write a clipboard copy/paste function with IDL on Linux systems. This is really straightforward with xclip. I just need to know if the system I am working on has xclip installed. Based on `cgHasImageMagick`, I could do:

```
IDL> Spawn, 'xclip -version', result, error_result
```

But xclip returns the version in the STDERR stream:

```
IDL> print, result
```

```
IDL> print, error_result
```

```
xclip version 0.12 Copyright (C) 2001-2008 Kim Saunders et al.  
Distributed under the terms of the GNU GPL
```

This ok for me, but how to be sure that this is the case on all linux systems?

Is there a "more general way" to do this?

Thanks a lot,

Fabien
