Hi Nobu,

If you have database retrieval routines already in C,
have you thought about using CALL_EXTERNAL to link
the C routines directly into your IDL code and save you
having to use SPAWNs which will likely be slower.

There's a lot of examples out there for calling up C from
IDL and it's now a relatively simple thing to set up on
most platforms.

 Tim

Nobuyuki Tasaka wrote:
>
> Hi all,
>
> If someone who have tried to compare SPAWN in the following
> usage, please let me know the difference in terms of data
> parsing speed, interface flexibility and routine's independency.
>
> I would like to use SPAWN for calling database retriving routine
> written in C.
>
> 1) SPAWN, "cmd", result
>
> 2) SPAWN, "cmd", /UNIT
>
> 3) SPAWN, "cmd"
>   (C routine writes data to memory map file and then IDL read it
>   as a Logical Unit File)
>
> I'm looking forward to your help.
> Nobu
>
> --------------------------------
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