
Subject: Re: SPAWN

Posted by [alpha](#) on Wed, 16 Apr 1997 07:00:00 GMT

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davidf@dfanning.com (David Fanning) writes:

> Nobuyuki Tasaka <tasaka@mr.med.ge.com> writes:

>> 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.

>>

>> 2) SPAWN, "cmd", /UNIT

> This method is much more flexible in terms of interaction with
> your database, but it is restricted to UNIX platforms. If you want
> to pass large amounts of data back and forth and can be slow and,
> of course,

ah yes, 130Kbyte/sec maximum

you have to make two copies of every piece of data,
> which is not resource friendly.

Call_External would probably be
> a better choice if you decided to go down this path. It would give
> you the ability to share memory resources with your database
> access program.

Call exexternal with FDDI - call by reference!
I made up to 8Mbytes/sec data transfer directly into IDL-arrays!

>> 3) SPAWN, "cmd"
>> (C routine writes data to memory map file and then IDL read it
>> as a Logical Unit File)

> This has several huge advantages. First, it is extremely simple
> to implement.

Really? can you tell something more about memory-map-Files?
is that a ramdisk-filesystem?

be aware that you will the problem of two copies of the same
data again!

You don't need any special knowledge about

> operating systems, linking protocols, etc. And second, it works
 > on every platform IDL supports. You don't have to write special
 > code when you decide to port from your Suns to the PC or Mac.
 > On the downside, if you are transferring large amounts of data
 > it can be slower than you would like.

Ah.. si: how is the rate?

> If you are really serious about doing this, I would look into
 > Call_External as a possibility. Or, perhaps even better, wait
 > for IDL 5 and the new database connection tools. This problem
 > may have already been solved for you! :-)

ah yes! ODBC is the best of course!

so, CU

Panther

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