

Posted by [m218003](#) on Fri, 20 Aug 1999 07:00:00 GMT

In article <37bcb731@mindmeld.idcomm.com>,

- > I'm using IDL widgets to launch other applications on a unix network of
- > boxes using the SPAWN command.

- > It would be nice to generate events automatically at certain times of the
- > day. Alternatively, if the contents of a pipe could generate an event, that
- > would work too. What I don't want to do is hard code a loop that
- > continually reads a file or pipe, or checks the system time, and prevents
- > the user from using other functions.

- > Specifically, I need a way to determine whether a SPAWNed job is done so I
- > can have IDL launch another one automatically.

haven't tried. But there is a `TIMER` keyword to `widget_control`. One way to check if your spawned command is through would be to `SPAWN` a `ps | grep` command. As soon as you return an empty string your job is over. In a more sophisticated version of this you could try to get hold of the process ID when you start the job (e.g. something like `echo $$ > tmpfile`) and then do `ps | grep `cat tmpfile`` Then you could even spawn the same thing several times simultaneously.

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