
Subject: Re: Printing on Win platforms

Posted by [davidf](#) on Thu, 09 Dec 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Bernard Puc (bpuc@va.aetc.com) writes:

> I predominantly work with IDL on unix systems. But now I have a
> routine that needs to be able to print text on a win95/98 platform as
> well. On unix, I would create a temporary file with the text to be
> printed and then do SPAWN, 'lpr '+tempfilename to print the file. Is
> there an equivalent method for win?
>
> How about a better method for either?
>
> (Dave, do you cover this in your updated book?)

No I don't cover it, but I like to use a little piece of
freeware named PrintFile for these purposes. It is easily
configured to print PostScript or text files. It is written
by Peter Lerup and can be found here:

<http://hem1.passagen.se/ptlerup>

To print a text file from within IDL on my Windows NT
machine, I can type this:

```
IDL>Spawn, 'Start C:\Program Files\printfile\prfile32.exe testfile.txt'
```

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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Subject: Re: Printing on Win platforms

Posted by [Liam Gumley](#) on Thu, 09 Dec 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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> printed and then do SPAWN, 'lpr '+tempfilename to print the file. Is

> there an equivalent method for win?

Ah the good old days when I drove MSDOS. How about this:

```
cmd = "  
case !version.os_family of  
  'Windows' : cmd = string(filename, format='\"copy \" , a, \" prn:\")')  
  'unix' : cmd = string(filename, format='\"lpr \" , a')  
  else : message, 'I don't know how to print on this platform', /continue  
endcase  
if (cmd ne "") then spawn, cmd
```

> How about a better method for either?

I'll have to think about that.

Cheers,
Liam.
<http://cimss.ssec.wisc.edu/~gumley>
