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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Covote'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