
Subject: bidirectional pipes in SunOS

Posted by [thompson](#) on Mon, 29 Nov 1993 18:27:51 GMT

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I'm passing this question on for somebody else who doesn't have news access. This person has software that runs on DEC Ultrix workstations that require being able to pass data back and forth through a pipe between IDL and Fortran. He has run into difficulty running this software under SunOS. Apparently the pipe freezes.

The following simple routine illustrates this problem:

```
pro testidl
spawn,'a.out',unit=pipe,/noshell,PID=pid
for i=0,49 do begin
  printf,pipe,i
  readf,pipe,fred
  print,'Value read from Fortran was ',fred
endfor
end
```

where the Fortran program (compiled into a.out) reads as follows:

```
integer*2 n
do i=1,50
  read (5,*) n
  write (6,*) n*2
enddo
end
```

When one tries to run the TESTIDL procedure on the Sun workstation, it freezes. Apparently it doesn't do that on the DEC Ultrix workstation. As far as I can tell, the Fortran routine is stuck waiting for input.

I'm not personally familiar with this aspect of IDL. Can anybody suggest how to make pipes like this work under SunOS?

Thank you,

Bill Thompson
