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Subject: Re: SPAWN command bug  
Posted by [William Luh](#) on Mon, 28 May 2001 23:21:22 GMT  
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I would also like to add that putting white spaces in the path is not the culprit. In case 1, everything works fine, even with the space in "program files".

Will  
luhw@ecf.utoronto.ca

"LUH WILLIAM" <luhw@ecf.utoronto.ca> wrote in message  
news:Pine.SGI.3.96.1010528115530.104942202A-100000@skule.ecf ...  
Hi, I'm having trouble with using really long commands with spawn. Here's  
an example:

```
strCommand = "c:\program files\spectral\spec.exe" + $  
            string(x) + ' ' + string(y) + ' "' + strOutput + ""
```

where x = 25, y = 25 for example

Now call Spawn, strCommand:

Case 1:

-----  
for strOutput = '.\OUT\output.dat', everything works fine.

Case 2:

-----  
for strOutput =  
'c:\program files\spectral\develop\debug exe\output\first\output.dat', I  
get  
this error message:

```
% XMANAGER: Caught unexpected error from client application. Message  
follows...  
% SPAWN: Error executing spawn command.  
  A device attached to the system is not functioning.
```

There appears to be no problem with SPAWN in case 1, and after I quit case 2, I can still call SPAWN without any complaints. I suspect it's because the command string strCommand is too long, since for shorter strOutput it works, however after reading the help for SPAWN, I did not find anything about a limit on the string length of command. Are there any workarounds to this problem?

Thanks,  
Will

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Subject: Re: SPAWN command bug

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 29 May 2001 03:45:38 GMT

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LUH WILLIAM <luhw@ecf.utoronto.ca> writes:

> Hi, I'm having trouble with using really long commands with spawn. Here's  
> an example:

```
>  
> strCommand = "c:\program files\spectral\spec.exe" + $  
>           string(x) + ' ' + string(y) + ' "' + strOutput + ""
```

>  
> where x = 25, y = 25 for example

>  
> Now call Spawn, strCommand:

... remainder deleted...

Isn't there a limit to the number of characters in a DOS command? I thought it was 127 or 128. This implies that no matter what you do, you won't be able to execute a long command even to COMMAND.COM. when you type it to a COMMAND.COM window?

Even if this limit has been enhanced under Win Me/9x, it's possible that IDL is using some older, more limited version of the interface.

Craig

--

```
-----  
Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D.      EMAIL:  craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu  
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response  
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```