
Subject: IDL and 'nice' question

Posted by [Randall Skelton](#) on Thu, 28 Jun 2001 12:29:40 GMT

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Hi all,

I have a question regarding setting the priority of IDL on a *nix operating system. There are certain instances when it is desirable to set the priority of idl to a lower priority with the nice command. Of course, typing 'idl' at the command-line is actually a front-end to a shell script and not an actual binary. Are there any foreseeable problems in starting the idl binary directly with 'nice -19 \$IDL_DIR/bin/idl' as opposed to starting the shell script?

One *nix quirk here is that a general user cannot increase the priority of idl once it has been nice'd to a low priority.

--excerpt from renice man page--

BUGS: Non super-users can not increase scheduling priorities of their own processes, even if they were the ones that decreased the priorities in the first place.

The Linux kernel (at least version 2.0.0) and linux libc (at least version 5.2.18) does not agree entirely on what the specifics of the system call interface to set nice values is. Thus causes renice to report bogus previous nice values.

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This is probably not the best place to ask, but does anyone know if writing a dlm using `getpriority()` and `setpriority()` could overcome this?

Cheers,
Randall
