

---

Subject: Re: launching executables from idl  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 28 Mar 2002 01:32:36 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Jonathan Pearce (jvp10@psu.edu) writes:

- > Is it possible to launch executables (\*.exe) from IDL? I would like to
- > use IDL to write a front end program which would call various
- > executables. These executables also need to have command line options
- > passed to them.
- >
- > Can it be done? In the documentation I can only see references to
- > calling dlls.
- >
- > I'd be most grateful for any responses,

Use SPAWN. The command string you send to the OS can have all kinds of command line arguments, you just won't be able to pass any IDL variables to your routines.

Cheers,

David

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting  
Phone: 970-221-0438, E-mail: [david@dfanning.com](mailto:david@dfanning.com)  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

---

---

Subject: Re: launching executables from idl  
Posted by [G Karas](#) on Thu, 28 Mar 2002 07:40:21 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

or... write off a script from within IDL  
save it in a file and use SPAWN with the script name:

eg

file is commands.txt

CMD = 'dothiscommand < commands.txt' ; should work in DOS as well  
SPAWN, CMD

or,

CD, dir ; where dir is where your script is

```
filename = 'commands.script'  
CMD = 'chmod 755' + filename ; for unix  
SPAWN, CMD  
CMD = 'command.script'  
SPAWN, CMD, result  
print, result ; to get you the results (txt) back in IDL
```

basically SPAWN is just a way to escape into the  
command line from within an IDL session  
What I do, is send off all the commands to a script,  
then make that executable and SPAWN it. Not very  
elegant, very system-dependant, but it is quick and dirty.

cheers!

---

---

Subject: Re: launching executables from idl  
Posted by [jvp10](#) on Fri, 29 Mar 2002 00:51:25 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Thanks all, that's exactly what I was looking for.

Jon Pearce.

---