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Subject: Re: Problem with SPAWN()

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Tue, 21 Jan 2003 07:44:19 GMT

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sciprogrammer@hotmail.com (Justin Burruss) writes:

> I'm having trouble with the SPAWN() command. When I load-level IDL  
> using lsrn (part of the LSF suite of load-balancing software) I see a  
> strange problem where calls to SPAWN() produce a "no such file or  
> directory" error. This happens with even very simple commands.  
> Here's an example:  
>  
> Start with a very simple .pro file that spawns the pwd command:  
>  
> % cat test2.pro  
> spawn,'/bin/pwd'  
> exit  
>  
> Load-level IDL using lsrn:  
>  
> % lsrn -m "lsf002" idl test2  
> [...usual IDL startup message...]  
> % SPAWN: Error managing child process.  
> No such file or directory  
>  
> That fails, but if I load-level the pwd command directly it works:  
>  
> % lsrn -m "lsf002" /bin/pwd  
> /u/burruss  
>  
> I can also get this to work if I use SPAWN() with the NOSHELL keyword  
> as in this example:  
>  
> spawn,['/bin/pwd'],/noshell  
> exit  
>  
> The only thing I can think of is that perhaps the "no such file or  
> directory" message comes from IDL trying to start up a non-existent  
> shell. Does anyone have any ideas about this? How does SPAWN()  
> select which shell to start?

Greetings--

I remember a friend having this or a similar problem, and it was ultimately traceable to not being able to write in the /tmp directory. For some reason IDL writes something to the /tmp directory sometimes (all the time?) when spawning a shell. If not this, then something

like this, i.e. check for something that is writeable in a normal environment, but is not in your captive environment.

Good luck,  
Craig

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