
Subject: Re: Launching Another App. from IDL
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 05 Aug 2004 19:40:52 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

M. Katz writes:

> I'm wondering if on Windows there's an easy IDL command that is
> capable of launching an external application. What I'd like to do is
> to have an IDL widget button be able to launch Internet Explorer (or a
> better browser) and direct it to a specific URL. There must be some
> kind of ActiveX thing that can do this, no? I don't want to have to
> write a big external library and all that hooley.

This seems to work in all versions of IDL for a local
web page:

```
IDL> ONLINE_HELP, BOOK='C:/CoyoteGuide/index.html'
```

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Subject: Re: Launching Another App. from IDL
Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Thu, 05 Aug 2004 21:34:56 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

M. Katz wrote:

> I'm wondering if on Windows there's an easy IDL command that is
> capable of launching an external application. What I'd like to do is
> to have an IDL widget button be able to launch Internet Explorer (or a
> better browser) and direct it to a specific URL. There must be some
> kind of ActiveX thing that can do this, no? I don't want to have to
> write a big external library and all that hooley.
>
> Thanks!
> M. Katz

You can use the WIDGET_ACTIVEX() function and you could use SPAWN
(iexplore "insert your url here"). The issue you'll run into is
determining if an alternate browser is available. To be safe I would
stick with IE but you could write a procedure which would look for
Opera, Moz, Firefox in at least their default locations.

When WIDGET_ACTIVEX was born, I wrote a windows only HTML help widget which demonstrates the use of WIDGET_ACTIVEX. It is simply an IDL widget window with IE embedded in it (no controls, although right clicks in the window bring up the IE context menu). I don't know how specific the COM ID is so I can't guarantee that this will work with all versions of IE.

You can pick up Dialog_WinHTMLHelp here:

<http://www.acoustics.washington.edu/~towler/programs/directInputDLM.zip>

-Rick
