
Subject: Help with SPAWN

Posted by [Marc Reinig](#) on Sat, 22 Jan 2005 01:27:42 GMT

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I am running a Windows exe file from IDL. The EXE takes a single string parameter.

```
tmp_path = "" + exe_path + ' ' + result_path + ""  
spawn, tmp_path
```

It brings up the command window, runs the program, and works fine. Life is good!

Now I want to run it without the command window showing. However,

```
spawn, tmp_path /NOSHELL
```

 won't run.

What am I missing?

Thanks in advance,

-Marco

Marc Reinig
UCO/Lick Observatory
Laboratory for Adaptive Optics

Subject: Re: Help with Spawn

Posted by [Andrew Cool](#) on Fri, 18 Jul 2008 13:06:35 GMT

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On Jul 18, 8:23 pm, alex...@gmail.com wrote:

- > Hello everybody. My question is simple, yet I haven't found a
- > satisfying answer in the various guides.
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- > I'm using spawn to call for an executable file under the Windows OS,
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- > closing the shell, or just leave it open.
- >
- > Is this possible? Is there any other way around it?
- >
- > Thanks a lot for any help, Alex

Why not use the "result" argument, and do a print,result to see what errors or output text was generated?

SPAWN [, Command [, Result] [, ErrResult]]

Subject: Re: Help with Spawn

Posted by [jeffnettles4870](#) on Fri, 18 Jul 2008 13:48:55 GMT

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On Jul 18, 7:23 am, alex...@gmail.com wrote:

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Jeff

Subject: Re: Help with Spawn

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Fri, 18 Jul 2008 14:17:55 GMT

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How about using the LOG_OUTPUT keyword? Simple is good...

Subject: Re: Help with Spawn

Posted by [jeffnettles4870](#) on Fri, 18 Jul 2008 17:24:42 GMT

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On Jul 18, 10:17 am, Vince Hradil <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote:

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This was a long time ago and a minor issue so i just did the cut-and-paste-the-spawn-string trick i mentioned earlier and then moved on :) It would be good to know, though, if this is something anyone else has run into...

Subject: Re: Help with Spawn

Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Fri, 18 Jul 2008 17:46:19 GMT

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On Jul 18, 12:24 pm, "Jeff N." <jeffnettles4...@gmail.com> wrote:

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```

It works for me:

```

IDL> cd, 'c:\temp'
IDL> spawn, 'dir', /log_output
Volume in drive C has no label.
Volume Serial Number is 8C6A-7ADD

```

Directory of c:\temp

```

07/01/2008 11:23 AM <DIR>      .
07/01/2008 11:23 AM <DIR>      ..
                0 File(s)      0 bytes
                2 Dir(s) 12,076,867,584 bytes free

```

```

IDL> print, !version
{ x86 Win32 Windows Microsoft Windows 7.0 Oct 25 2007    32    64}

```

Subject: Re: Help with Spawn

Posted by [jeffnetles4870](#) on Sat, 19 Jul 2008 00:37:06 GMT

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On Jul 18, 1:46 pm, Vince Hradil <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote:

```

> On Jul 18, 12:24 pm, "Jeff N." <jeffnetles4...@gmail.com> wrote:
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```

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Right, spawning a 'dir' command works for me too, as does any of the other "internal" commands. I just tried the command line version of my SFTP program however, which is not part of what used to be DOS, and the keyword does not work. I'm guessing it has to do with the way text is written to stout somehow?? Anyway this is on IDL 6.2 and WinXP SP3.

Subject: Re: Help with Spawn
Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Sat, 19 Jul 2008 13:22:07 GMT
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On Jul 18, 7:37 pm, "Jeff N." <jeffnettles4...@gmail.com> wrote:
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```

Oh, I see - I misread your earlier comment. I thought you said it fails when it IS an internal command.

Here's a little test I did with 7zip.

```
IDL> cd, 'c:\temp'
IDL> spawn, 'dir', /log_output
Volume in drive C has no label.
Volume Serial Number is 8C6A-7ADD
```

Directory of c:\temp

```
07/19/2008 08:18 AM <DIR>      .
07/19/2008 08:18 AM <DIR>      ..
07/19/2008 08:18 AM           0 test.txt
          1 File(s)          0 bytes
          2 Dir(s) 12,129,624,064 bytes free
IDL> spawn, 'c:\program files\7-Zip\7z.exe ', /log_output
'c:\program' is not recognized as an internal or external command,
operable program or batch file.
IDL> spawn, '"c:\program files\7-Zip\7z.exe"', /log_output
```

7-Zip 4.58 beta Copyright (c) 1999-2008 Igor Pavlov 2008-05-05

Usage: 7z <command> [<switches>...] <archive_name> [<file_names>...]
[<@listfiles...>]

<Commands>

- a: Add files to archive
- b: Benchmark
- d: Delete files from archive
- e: Extract files from archive (without using directory names)
- l: List contents of archive
- t: Test integrity of archive
- u: Update files to archive
- x: eXtract files with full paths

<Switches>

- ai[r[-|0]]{@listfile|!wildcard}: Include archives
- ax[r[-|0]]{@listfile|!wildcard}: eXclude archives
- bd: Disable percentage indicator
- i[r[-|0]]{@listfile|!wildcard}: Include filenames
- m{Parameters}: set compression Method
- o{Directory}: set Output directory
- p{Password}: set Password
- r[-|0]: Recurse subdirectories
- scs{UTF-8 | WIN | DOS}: set charset for list files
- sfx[{name}]: Create SFX archive

-si[`{name}`]: read data from stdin
-slt: show technical information for l (List) command
-so: write data to stdout
-ssc[-]: set sensitive case mode
-ssw: compress shared files
-t{`Type`}: Set type of archive
-v{`Size`}[`b|k|m|g`]: Create volumes
-u[-][`p#`][`q#`][`r#`][`x#`][`y#`][`z#`][`!newArchiveName`]: Update options
-w{`path`}: assign Work directory. Empty path means a temporary directory
-x[r[-|0]]{`@listfile|!wildcard`}: eXclude filenames
-y: assume Yes on all queries
IDL> spawn, "c:\program files\7-Zip\7z.exe" test.txt', /log_output

7-Zip 4.58 beta Copyright (c) 1999-2008 Igor Pavlov 2008-05-05

Error:

Incorrect command line

IDL> spawn, "c:\program files\7-Zip\7z.exe" a -tgzip test.txt.gz
test.txt', /log_output

7-Zip 4.58 beta Copyright (c) 1999-2008 Igor Pavlov 2008-05-05
Scanning

Creating archive test.txt.gz

Compressing test.txt

Everything is Ok

IDL> spawn, 'dir', /log_output
Volume in drive C has no label.
Volume Serial Number is 8C6A-7ADD

Directory of c:\temp

```
07/19/2008 08:20 AM <DIR>      .
07/19/2008 08:20 AM <DIR>      ..
07/19/2008 08:18 AM          0 test.txt
07/19/2008 08:20 AM          32 test.txt.gz
                2 File(s)      32 bytes
                2 Dir(s) 12,129,591,296 bytes free
```

Subject: Re: Help with Spawn
Posted by [alexbaz](#) on Sat, 19 Jul 2008 16:41:21 GMT
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Thanks a lot, LOG_OUTPUT works like a charm.. (blonde moment by me)

Cheers

Subject: Re: Help with Spawn

Posted by [jeffnettles4870](#) on Sat, 19 Jul 2008 19:53:30 GMT

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```

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> 7-Zip 4.58 beta Copyright (c) 1999-2008 Igor Pavlov 2008-05-05
>
> Usage: 7z <command> [<switches>...] <archive_name> [<file_names>...]
>    [<@listfiles...>]
>
> <Commands>
> a: Add files to archive
> b: Benchmark
> d: Delete files from archive
> e: Extract files from archive (without using directory names)
> l: List contents of archive
> t: Test integrity of archive
> u: Update files to archive
> x: eXtract files with full paths
> <Switches>
> -ai[r[-|0]]{@listfile|!wildcard}: Include archives
> -ax[r[-|0]]{@listfile|!wildcard}: eXclude archives
> -bd: Disable percentage indicator
> -i[r[-|0]]{@listfile|!wildcard}: Include filenames
> -m{Parameters}: set compression Method
> -o{Directory}: set Output directory
> -p{Password}: set Password
> -r[-|0]: Recurse subdirectories
> -scs{UTF-8 | WIN | DOS}: set charset for list files
> -sfx[{name}]: Create SFX archive
> -si[{name}]: read data from stdin
> -slt: show technical information for l (List) command
> -so: write data to stdout
> -ssc[-]: set sensitive case mode
> -ssw: compress shared files
> -t{Type}: Set type of archive
> -v{Size}[b|k|m|g]: Create volumes
> -u[-][p#][q#][r#][x#][y#][z#][!newArchiveName]: Update options
> -w[{path}]: assign Work directory. Empty path means a temporary
> directory
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> 7-Zip 4.58 beta Copyright (c) 1999-2008 Igor Pavlov 2008-05-05
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> 7-Zip 4.58 beta Copyright (c) 1999-2008 Igor Pavlov 2008-05-05
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>
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> 07/19/2008 08:20 AM          32 test.txt.gz
>                2 File(s)      32 bytes
>                2 Dir(s) 12,129,591,296 bytes free
```

I actually thought about using my zip program as a test too, but unfortunately even if you run it from the command line it still opens up a window to report its progress in. That's the only other command line program i have anymore :(wow times have changed. Anyway, the program itself works fine when i spawn it from IDL. IDL just doesn't capture the output when you set log_output. I think your results confirm my earlier suspicion: that it's the program being spawned, not IDL (or Windows), that is causing something to happen that makes IDL unable to capture its output.
