Subject: Help with SPAWN

Posted by Marc Reinig on Sat, 22 Jan 2005 01:27:42 GMT

View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

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

View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

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.
- >
- > I'm using spawn to call for an executable file under the Windows OS,
- > it oppens a command window and executes there. The problem is, very
- > quickly I get an error and the entire command shell closes
- > momentarily. I'd want to be able to see the error it presents before
- > 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?

Subject: Re: Help with Spawn

Posted by jeffnettles4870 on Fri, 18 Jul 2008 13:48:55 GMT

View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

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

- > Hello everybody. My question is simple, yet I haven't found a
- > satisfying answer in the various guides.

>

- > I'm using spawn to call for an executable file under the Windows OS,
- > it oppens a command window and executes there. The problem is, very
- > quickly I get an error and the entire command shell closes
- > momentarily. I'd want to be able to see the error it presents before
- > 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

Another trick i do a lot is just print out the command that you're going to spawn using a print statement, then open up your own command window and paste in that command. The command shell isn't going to close when you do that, and I often find it's easier to fix whatever mistakes i've made with the command i'm trying to issue in the actual command window then go back to my IDL program and make sure it spawns the fixed command.

Jeff

Subject: Re: Help with Spawn

Posted by Vince Hradil on Fri, 18 Jul 2008 14:17:55 GMT

View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

On Jul 18, 8:48 am, "Jeff N." <jeffnettles4...@gmail.com> wrote:

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

>

- >> Hello everybody. My question is simple, yet I haven't found a
- >> satisfying answer in the various guides.

>

- >> I'm using spawn to call for an executable file under the Windows OS,
- >> it oppens a command window and executes there. The problem is, very
- >> quickly I get an error and the entire command shell closes

momentarily. I'd want to be able to see the error it presents before
closing the shell, or just leave it open.
ls this possible? Is there any other way around it?
Thanks a lot for any help, Alex
Another trick i do a lot is just print out the command that you're
going to spawn using a print statement, then open up your own command
window and paste in that command. The command shell isn't going to
close when you do that, and I often find it's easier to fix whatever
mistakes i've made with the command i'm trying to issue in the actual
command window then go back to my IDL program and make sure it spawns
the fixed command.

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
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

On Jul 18, 10:17 am, Vince Hradil <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote: > On Jul 18, 8:48 am, "Jeff N." < jeffnettles4...@gmail.com> wrote: > > > >> On Jul 18, 7:23 am, alex...@gmail.com wrote: >>> Hello everybody. My question is simple, yet I haven't found a >>> satisfying answer in the various guides. > >>> I'm using spawn to call for an executable file under the Windows OS, >>> it oppens a command window and executes there. The problem is, very >>> quickly I get an error and the entire command shell closes >>> momentarily. I'd want to be able to see the error it presents before >>> 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 >> Another trick i do a lot is just print out the command that you're >> going to spawn using a print statement, then open up your own command >> window and paste in that command. The command shell isn't going to >> close when you do that, and I often find it's easier to fix whatever

```
>> mistakes i've made with the command i'm trying to issue in the actual >> command window then go back to my IDL program and make sure it spawns >> the fixed command. > Jeff > How about using the LOG_OUTPUT keyword? Simple is good...
```

I've actually had that keyword not work for me a few times. It's always been when the program i've tried to spawn was not an OS command (e.g., dir, cd, etc.), and i think it was also a program where the output wasn't outputting one line of text for each iteration but rather doing a sequence like print output/clear screen/print output/etc....

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 View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

```
On Jul 18, 12:24 pm, "Jeff N." <jeffnettles4...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Jul 18, 10:17 am, Vince Hradil <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote:
>
>
>> On Jul 18, 8:48 am, "Jeff N." < jeffnettles4...@gmail.com> wrote:
>>> On Jul 18, 7:23 am, alex...@gmail.com wrote:
>>>> Hello everybody. My question is simple, yet I haven't found a
>>> satisfying answer in the various guides.
>
>>>> I'm using spawn to call for an executable file under the Windows OS,
>>>> it oppens a command window and executes there. The problem is, very
>>> quickly I get an error and the entire command shell closes
>>> momentarily. I'd want to be able to see the error it presents before
>>> 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
>>> Another trick i do a lot is just print out the command that you're
```

```
>>> going to spawn using a print statement, then open up your own command
>>> window and paste in that command. The command shell isn't going to
>>> close when you do that, and I often find it's easier to fix whatever
>>> mistakes i've made with the command i'm trying to issue in the actual
>>> command window then go back to my IDL program and make sure it spawns
>>> the fixed command.
>>> Jeff
>> How about using the LOG OUTPUT keyword? Simple is good...
>
> I've actually had that keyword not work for me a few times. It's
> always been when the program i've tried to spawn was not an OS command
> (e.g., dir, cd, etc.), and i think it was also a program where the
> output wasn't outputting one line of text for each iteration but
> rather doing a sequence like print output/clear screen/print output/
> etc....
> 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...
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 jeffnettles4870 on Sat, 19 Jul 2008 00:37:06 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message
```

```
On Jul 18, 1:46 pm, Vince Hradil <a href="mailto:line">hrad...@yahoo.com</a> wrote: > On Jul 18, 12:24 pm, "Jeff N." <jeffnettles4...@gmail.com</a> wrote: > >
```

```
>> On Jul 18, 10:17 am, Vince Hradil <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote:
>>> On Jul 18, 8:48 am, "Jeff N." <jeffnettles4...@gmail.com> wrote:
>>> On Jul 18, 7:23 am, alex...@gmail.com wrote:
>>> > Hello everybody. My question is simple, yet I haven't found a
>>>> > satisfying answer in the various guides.
>
>>>> > I'm using spawn to call for an executable file under the Windows OS,
>>> > it oppens a command window and executes there. The problem is, very
>>> > quickly I get an error and the entire command shell closes
>>>> > momentarily. I'd want to be able to see the error it presents before
>>>> > 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
>>> Another trick i do a lot is just print out the command that you're
>>> going to spawn using a print statement, then open up your own command
>>> window and paste in that command. The command shell isn't going to
>>> close when you do that, and I often find it's easier to fix whatever
>>> mistakes i've made with the command i'm trying to issue in the actual
>>> command window then go back to my IDL program and make sure it spawns
>>>> the fixed command.
>>>> Jeff
>>> How about using the LOG OUTPUT keyword? Simple is good...
>
>> I've actually had that keyword not work for me a few times. It's
>> always been when the program i've tried to spawn was not an OS command
>> (e.g., dir, cd, etc.), and i think it was also a program where the
>> output wasn't outputting one line of text for each iteration but
>> rather doing a sequence like print output/clear screen/print output/
>> etc....
>> 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...
 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}
```

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
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

```
On Jul 18, 7:37 pm, "Jeff N." < jeffnettles4...@gmail.com> wrote:
> On Jul 18, 1:46 pm, Vince Hradil <a href="mailto:hrad...@yahoo.com">hradil <a href="mailto:hrad...@yahoo.com">hrad...@yahoo.com</a>>
>
>
>
>> On Jul 18, 12:24 pm, "Jeff N." <jeffnettles4...@gmail.com> wrote:
>>> On Jul 18, 10:17 am, Vince Hradil <a href="mailto:hrad...@yahoo.com">hrad:..@yahoo.com</a> wrote:
>>> On Jul 18, 8:48 am, "Jeff N." < jeffnettles4...@gmail.com> wrote:
>>> > On Jul 18, 7:23 am, alex...@gmail.com wrote:
>>>> > Hello everybody. My question is simple, yet I haven't found a
>>>> > satisfying answer in the various guides.
>>>> > I'm using spawn to call for an executable file under the Windows OS,
>>> > it oppens a command window and executes there. The problem is, very
>>> > quickly I get an error and the entire command shell closes
>>> > momentarily. I'd want to be able to see the error it presents before
>>> > > 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
>>> > Another trick i do a lot is just print out the command that you're
>>>> going to spawn using a print statement, then open up your own command
>>> > window and paste in that command. The command shell isn't going to
>>> > close when you do that, and I often find it's easier to fix whatever
>>>> mistakes i've made with the command i'm trying to issue in the actual
>>> > command window then go back to my IDL program and make sure it spawns
>>>> > the fixed command.
>>>> > Jeff
>>> How about using the LOG_OUTPUT keyword? Simple is good...
>
>>> I've actually had that keyword not work for me a few times. It's
>>> always been when the program i've tried to spawn was not an OS command
>>> (e.g., dir, cd, etc.), and i think it was also a program where the
>>> output wasn't outputting one line of text for each iteration but
>>> rather doing a sequence like print output/clear screen/print output/
>>> etc....
>>> 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...
>
>> 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
                                                                      64}
                                                               32
>
> 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.
```

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)
- I: 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 I (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

Subject: Re: Help with Spawn

Posted by alexbaz on Sat, 19 Jul 2008 16:41:21 GMT

View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Cheers

```
Subject: Re: Help with Spawn
Posted by jeffnettles4870 on Sat, 19 Jul 2008 19:53:30 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message
```

```
On Jul 19, 9:22 am, Vince Hradil <a href="mailto:hrad...@yahoo.com">hradil <a href="mailto:hrad...@yahoo.com">hrad...@yahoo.com</a>>
> On Jul 18, 7:37 pm, "Jeff N." < ieffnettles4...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
>
>> On Jul 18, 1:46 pm, Vince Hradil <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote:
>>> On Jul 18, 12:24 pm, "Jeff N." < jeffnettles4...@gmail.com> wrote:
>
>>> On Jul 18, 10:17 am, Vince Hradil <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote:
>>> > On Jul 18, 8:48 am, "Jeff N." < jeffnettles4...@gmail.com> wrote:
>>>> > On Jul 18, 7:23 am, alex...@gmail.com wrote:
>
>>>> > Hello everybody. My question is simple, yet I haven't found a
>>>> >>> satisfying answer in the various guides.
>
>>> > > I'm using spawn to call for an executable file under the Windows OS,
>>> > > it oppens a command window and executes there. The problem is, very
>>> > > guickly I get an error and the entire command shell closes
>>> > > momentarily. I'd want to be able to see the error it presents before
>>> > > 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
>>>> > Another trick i do a lot is just print out the command that you're
>>> > going to spawn using a print statement, then open up your own command
>>>> > window and paste in that command. The command shell isn't going to
>>> > close when you do that, and I often find it's easier to fix whatever
>>> > mistakes i've made with the command i'm trying to issue in the actual
>>> > command window then go back to my IDL program and make sure it spawns
>>>> > the fixed command.
>
>>>> > Jeff
>>>> > How about using the LOG_OUTPUT keyword? Simple is good...
```

```
>
>>>> I've actually had that keyword not work for me a few times. It's
>>> always been when the program i've tried to spawn was not an OS command
>>> (e.g., dir, cd, etc.), and i think it was also a program where the
>>> output wasn't outputting one line of text for each iteration but
>>>> rather doing a sequence like print output/clear screen/print output/
>>>> etc....
>>>> 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...
>>> 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}
>
>> 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.
  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)
   I: 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 I (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
```

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.