
Subject: Multiple Spawn Commands

Posted by [Ryan](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 15:33:17 GMT

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Dear IDL Gurus,

Is it possible to issue multiple Spawn commands in Unix IDL without closing the shell? What I want to do is issue a very simple foreach loop but i cannot call spawn long enough to input all the commands. I think i might have to use the Unit keyword of spawn but i'm not sure how it works. Due to the simplicity of what I want to do I might be able to do it in fewer commands in Unix but I don't have enough experience in Unix to know how. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

I want the following commands issued in Unix:

```
change to desired directory
foreach i ( file1 file2 file3 ... )
...file_dump.pl -$i ...
end
```

To do this I have the following:

```
spawn, foreachcommand
spawn, filedumpcommand
spawn, endcommand
```

but this obviously does not work.

Thanks,
Ryan.

Subject: Re: Multiple Spawn Commands

Posted by [Ryan](#) on Fri, 14 Jul 2006 18:56:06 GMT

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Thanks Maarten.

I've talked to my co-worker who knows more about this than I do and he said it is not possible with the shell that I am using. It is a modified csh shell. I've decided that i'm going to do the looping in IDL and spawn each statement like you suggested.

Ryan.

Subject: Re: Multiple Spawn Commands

Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Sat, 15 Jul 2006 14:22:34 GMT

"Ryan." <rchughes@brutus.uwaterloo.ca> writes:

> Dear IDL Gurus,
>
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> closing the shell? What I want to do is issue a very simple foreach
> loop but i cannot call spawn long enough to input all the commands. I
> think i might have to use the Unit keyword of spawn but i'm not sure
> how it works. Due to the simplicity of what I want to do I might be
> able to do it in fewer commands in Unix but I don't have enough
> experience in Unix to know how. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

I agree with you that this can't be done with semicolons as the other posters suggested.

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> spawn, endcommand

I have to ask, why are you trying to directly transliterate a c-shell script? You're in IDL, why not use it?

```
files = ['file1', 'file2', 'file3', '...']  
for i = 0, n_elements(files)-1 do begin  
  cmd = string(files[i], format='("...file_dump.pl -",A0," ... ")')  
  spawn, cmd  
end
```

Or, you could make a single shell script with all the commands you want to run, give the file executable permissions, and then run it with a single command from IDL.

Good luck!
Criag

--

Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@REMOVEcow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response

Subject: Re: Multiple Spawn Commands
Posted by [enod](#) on Wed, 19 Jul 2006 11:40:30 GMT
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It seems that IDL SPAWN evokes a new SHELL and only executes one line of comand each time, even when you write all the commands to a temp batch file and execute it. You can put all the commands in one line (seperated by &&) and execute it. Also, maybe you can use IDL's CD procedure to change the working directory.

Tian

Ryan. wrote:

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> closing the shell? What I want to do is issue a very simple foreach  
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> spawn, foreachcommand  
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> spawn, endcommand  
>  
> but this obviously does not work.  
>  
> Thanks,  
> Ryan.
```

Subject: Re: Multiple Spawn Commands
Posted by peter.albert@gmx.de on Thu, 20 Jul 2006 06:59:18 GMT
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The one-line-limitation can be avoided if you put all your commands in an `_executable_` batch file and call this file using SPWAN.

Regards,

Peter

tianyf@gmail.com schrieb:

> It seems that IDL SPAWN evokes a new SHELL and only executes one line
> of comand each time, even when you write all the commands to a temp
> batch file and execute it. You can put all the commands in one line
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> procedure to change the working directory.
>

Subject: Re: Multiple Spawn Commands
Posted by [enod](#) on Fri, 21 Jul 2006 10:55:09 GMT
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Yeah. This is right, both for Windows (.bat) and Linux (e.g. a C Shell script). I am sorry that there was a error in my previous post. I might have confused IDL with Java.

Thanks.

Cheers,
Tian

Peter Albert wrote:

> The one-line-limitation can be avoided if you put all your commands in
> an `_executable_` batch file and call this file using SPWAN.
>
>
> Regards,
>
> Peter
>
> tianyf@gmail.com schrieb:
>
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