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Subject: Re: spawn question

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Sat, 31 May 2008 11:59:56 GMT

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In article

<33a84552-1576-4ca3-a670-3f37064bf63c@59g2000hsb.googlegroups.com>,  
russ <rlayberry@hotmail.com> wrote:

> this may be a stupid question and it might be that i am an idiot,  
> but...  
>  
> i want to spawn a process  
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> cmd='ls -l'  
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> i am actually doing this with a GET command and it sometimes hangs  
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> it tells me  
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>  
> but it says it is in the help?

/NOWAIT only works on Windows. Are you running on Unix/Linux/Mac OS?

Use the standard Unix syntax to run a procedure in the background

SPAWN, 'ls -l &', result

Of course, then you get this

```
IDL> spawn, 'ls -l &', result
IDL> help, result
RESULT      STRING   = Array[1]
IDL> print, result
[1] 4624
```

If you want to actually see the output of ls, you will have to run  
it in the foreground

```
IDL> spawn, 'ls -l', result
```

IDL> help, result  
RESULT        STRING    = Array[41]

Ken Bowman

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Subject: Re: spawn question  
Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Sat, 31 May 2008 16:21:29 GMT  
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On May 31, 5:20 am, russ <rlaybe...@hotmail.com> wrote:  
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> thanks  
>  
> russ

Your using the GET command? So what exactly are you spawning?

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Subject: Re: spawn question  
Posted by [russ\[1\]](#) on Sun, 01 Jun 2008 18:09:43 GMT  
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On 31 May, 17:21, Vince Hradil <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote:  
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> Your using the GET command? So what exactly are you spawning?- Hide quoted text -  
>  
> - Show quoted text -

I'm spawning

```
cmd='GET http://www.etc > outfile.txt'  
spawn,cmd
```

to get a webpage into a file which then i can read

---

Subject: Re: spawn question  
Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Sun, 01 Jun 2008 18:33:29 GMT  
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On Jun 1, 1:09 pm, russ <rlaybe...@hotmail.com> wrote:

> On 31 May, 17:21, Vince Hradil <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote:  
>  
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> to get a webpage into a filer which then i can read

Now I'm confused - and I'm no expert on this, but don't you have to have some kind of http connection to run a "GET" command? The OS won't know what to do with "GET" (unless you have some program called GET that opens a connection and executes a GET).

---

---

Subject: Re: spawn question

Posted by [russ\[1\]](#) on Sun, 01 Jun 2008 19:25:36 GMT

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On 1 Jun, 19:33, Vince Hradil <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote:

> On Jun 1, 1:09 pm, russ <rlaybe...@hotmail.com> wrote:

>

>

>

>

>

>> On 31 May, 17:21, Vince Hradil <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote:

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sorry if i'm not being clear. the GET command gets the contents of a website and the > operator puts it in a file which i subsequently read.

sometimes the GET command hangs. there is a timeout option on GET which I can't make work.

i think i will just ask if the file has been created and if it hasnt after sometime, kill the GET command and do another one with a different http site

russ

---

Subject: Re: spawn question  
Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Sun, 01 Jun 2008 22:41:20 GMT  
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On Jun 1, 2:25 pm, russ <rlaybe...@hotmail.com> wrote:  
> On 1 Jun, 19:33, Vince Hradil <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote:  
>  
>> On Jun 1, 1:09 pm, russ <rlaybe...@hotmail.com> wrote:  
>  
>>> On 31 May, 17:21, Vince Hradil <hrad...@yahoo.com> wrote:  
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> different http site
>
> russ
```

Yes, but GET is not an OS command. You need to have a stream from which to GET the data? Maybe I'm wrong, like I said, I don't really understand the whole thing. But if I type "GET http://www.yahoo.com" at the command prompt, my OS says - "unknown command: GET" or something like that.

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Subject: Re: spawn question

Posted by [Kenneth P. Bowman](#) on Mon, 02 Jun 2008 13:48:53 GMT

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In article

<9836d583-0a44-4bc1-b076-2b953089735a@26g2000hsk.googlegroups.com>,

russ <rlayberry@hotmail.com> wrote:

- > i think i will just ask if the file has been created and if it hasnt
- > after sometime, kill the GET command and do another one with a
- > different http site
- >
- > russ

I suggest that you look into curl and wget. I successfully SPAWN curl processes to put and get files from remote http and ftp servers.

This curl command puts a file to an ftp server in the background using my .netrc file for authentication (via anonymous ftp)

SPAWN, 'curl -n -s -T local\_file.png ftp://host.domain/directory/remote\_file.png &'

There is also the IDLnetURL object, but we have had problems with it crashing the IDL session. This has been reported to ITTVIS, but no solution yet (that I know of).

Ken Bowman

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