
Subject: Re: not so IDL related... Command line auto-feed
Posted by [R.G. Stockwell](#) on Mon, 07 Jul 2008 23:35:43 GMT
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"Jean H" <jghasban@DELTHIS.ucalgary.ANDTHIS.ca> wrote in message
news:g4u75l\$37\$1@news.ucalgary.ca...

> Hi all,
>
> sorry for the misuse of this forum... though one of the smart here may be
> of great help!
>
> Ok, I have to process about 200 files though a program called dem2xyzn
> (for USGS DEM files). This program runs only under windows (and dos), and
> have basically no support. You start the program, then it ask for the name
> of the input file, then for the name of the output file, then if you are
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> the program has resumed...
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> Any help of hints would be greatly appreciated!!!
> Jean

I did something similar, had an executable that has several prompts.
I wrote an IDL program to write all of the responses to a text file,
then copied it to the clipboard, ran the exe in a cmd window,
and used the window menu to paste that huge text file into the
dos window. (the window menu is at the very top left part
of the dos window - it says Restore, Move, Resize, etc.)

It executed the program, and correctly inputted all
required info. I was able to run a thousand runs in about an hour
(rather than several weeks of typing stuff in by hand).

Cheers,
bob

Subject: Re: not so IDL related... Command line auto-feed
Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Tue, 08 Jul 2008 00:24:14 GMT
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I would first try one of the many mouse/keyboard "macro" utilities. Something like www.autohotkey.com. I haven't used this one in particular (and I can't remember what program I used to do something like this in the past) but most of these allow you to create text based scripts that drive the application. Once you work out the details you can write a program in IDL that creates the scripts given your inputs.

Another option would be to do it in VB. I've done this successfully as well. Something like:

```
Imports System.IO
Imports System.Diagnostics
Imports Microsoft.Win32

Private Declare Sub Sleep Lib "kernel32" (ByVal dwMilliseconds As Long)
Private psInfo As System.Diagnostics.ProcessStartInfo
Private process As process

exeFile = "notepad.exe"
psInfo = New System.Diagnostics.ProcessStartInfo(exeFile)
process = System.Diagnostics.Process.Start(psInfo)

process.WaitForInputIdle(3000)
System.Windows.Forms.SendKeys.SendWait("This is a test...")
System.Windows.Forms.SendKeys.SendWait("%f")
Sleep(500)
System.Windows.Forms.SendKeys.SendWait("s")
Sleep(500)
System.Windows.Forms.SendKeys.SendWait("test.txt")
Sleep(500)
System.Windows.Forms.SendKeys.SendWait("%s")
sleep(500)
```

You would of course want the application to read the inputs from a text file, start the process, send the inputs, monitor the process and then loop when the process exits. I don't know if there is an "isRunning" property for the System.Diagnostics.Process class. My guess is that there is something you could use.

Good luck!

-Rick

Jean H wrote:

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Subject: Re: not so IDL related... Command line auto-feed
Posted by [Bruce Bowler](#) on Tue, 08 Jul 2008 16:49:30 GMT
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On Mon, 07 Jul 2008 17:00:07 -0600, Jean H wrote:

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> after the program has resumed...

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> Any help of hints would be greatly appreciated!!! Jean

Assuming the program uses standard input, you should be able to create a file, called input.txt (pick a name, any name) that looks like this.

```
infile
outfile
x
```

then run the program like this

```
program < input.txt
```

If you then wrap a loop around the whole thing, it should be a piece of cake.

```
--
+-----+-----+
Bruce Bowler      | Sin boldly! - Martin Luther
1.207.633.9600    |
bbowler@bigelow.org |
+-----+-----+
```

Subject: Re: not so IDL related... Command line auto-feed
Posted by [Jean H.](#) on Tue, 08 Jul 2008 16:51:09 GMT
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Bob,

wow, thanks a lot!!!!
Easy and effective, great!!!!

I will write that technique down!!!
Jean

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> I wrote an IDL program to write all of the responses to a text file,
> then copied it to the clipboard, ran the exe in a cmd window,
> and used the window menu to paste that huge text file into the
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Subject: Re: not so IDL related... Command line auto-feed
Posted by [Jean H.](#) on Tue, 08 Jul 2008 16:53:08 GMT
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Rick,

Thanks for the info! ... I will go with Bob's suggestion as it is very
easy to implement.. and I will keep yours for the day that this kind
of process has to be down in the "middle" of another program! Thanks a lot!

Jean

Rick Towler wrote:

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Posted by [Jean H.](#) on Tue, 08 Jul 2008 17:41:28 GMT

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> x
>
> then run the program like this
>
> program < input.txt
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> If you then wrap a loop around the whole thing, it should be a piece of
> cake.
>
>

Ahh, another great way! Thanks a lot!
As a matter of fact, it works even better than copying the list of
inputs (one of them disappear during the execution of the prog)!

Jean
