

---

Subject: Re: SPAWN and strings  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 05 Nov 2010 14:22:53 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Ludo writes:

> As expected, if my working directory is "C:\directory name with  
> spaces", the following instruction works perfectly :  
>  
> SPAWN, ' "C:\Program Files\myDir\myProg.exe" myFile.h5'  
>  
> This one fails :  
>  
> SPAWN, ' "C:\Program Files\myDir\myProg.exe" "myFile.h5" '  
>  
> Did I miss something ? Some trick in strings management ?

In IDL, this is a mis-formed command:

```
IDL> a = "head" "waters"
```

That's why your last command fails, I think. A valid string can't be formed.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.  
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.  
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>  
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

---

---

Subject: Re: SPAWN and strings  
Posted by [Ludo](#) on Fri, 05 Nov 2010 14:45:40 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

>  
> In IDL, this is a mis-formed command:  
>  
> IDL> a = "head" "waters"  
>

Indeed, but this one is correct :

```
IDL> a = ' "head" "waters" '
```

It is a string containing several " .

By the way, adding the /NOSHELL keyword solved the problem.

---

---

Subject: Re: SPAWN and strings

Posted by [KRDean](#) on Fri, 05 Nov 2010 14:46:06 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Nov 5, 4:49 am, Ludo <lu...@orange.fr> wrote:

```
> I'm running IDL 7.1 on Windows XP SP2
> I tried this in the command line (cmd.exe) :
>
>> "C:\Program Files\myDir\myProg.exe" "C:\directory name with spaces\myFile.h5"
>
> It works.
>
> When I try the same command with SPAWN, it doesn't work. (I put spaces
> around ' and " for an easy reading, in my command there aren't any
> spaces.)
>
> SPAWN, ' "C:\Program Files\myDir\myProg.exe" "C:\directory name with
> spaces\myFile.h5" '
>
> It tries to launch C:\Program, just like there weren't any quotes
> ( " ). I have the impression that SPAWN can't handle more than two "
> in a string. Why ?
>
> As expected, if my working directory is "C:\directory name with
> spaces", the following instruction works perfectly :
>
> SPAWN, ' "C:\Program Files\myDir\myProg.exe" myFile.h5'
>
> This one fails :
>
> SPAWN, ' "C:\Program Files\myDir\myProg.exe" "myFile.h5" '
>
> Did I miss something ? Some trick in strings management ?
```

Actually, it is an Environment Variable trick. I found this tip in ITTVIS Tech tip. However, I forgot the Tip #.

Anyway, it works for me getting into the Windows XP UserProfile (C:\Documents and Settings\kdean)

```
env = 'CMDUSERPROFILE=' + '"' + GETENV('USERPROFILE') + "\"
SETENV, env
```

```
cmd = '%cmduserprofile%apps\PuTTY\Plink -ssh -v -batch ' +  
runtime_machine + ' -l ' + username + ' ls -la'  
SPAWN, CMD, listing, EXIT_STATUS = errOut, /STDERR, /LOG_OUTPUT
```

Kelly Dean  
Milliken, CO

---

---

Subject: Re: SPAWN and strings  
Posted by [Heinz Stege](#) on Fri, 05 Nov 2010 14:53:53 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On Fri, 5 Nov 2010 03:49:53 -0700 (PDT), Ludo wrote:

```
> I'm running IDL 7.1 on Windows XP SP2  
> I tried this in the command line (cmd.exe) :  
>  
>> "C:\Program Files\myDir\myProg.exe" "C:\directory name with spaces\myFile.h5"  
>  
> It works.  
>  
> When I try the same command with SPAWN, it doesn't work. (I put spaces  
> around ' and " for an easy reading, in my command there aren't any  
> spaces.)  
>  
> SPAWN, ' "C:\Program Files\myDir\myProg.exe" "C:\directory name with  
> spaces\myFile.h5" '  
>  
> It tries to launch C:\Program, just like there weren't any quotes  
> ( " ). I have the impression that SPAWN can't handle more than two "  
> in a string. Why ?  
>  
> As expected, if my working directory is "C:\directory name with  
> spaces", the following instruction works perfectly :  
>  
> SPAWN, ' "C:\Program Files\myDir\myProg.exe" myFile.h5'  
>  
> This one fails :  
>  
> SPAWN, ' "C:\Program Files\myDir\myProg.exe" "myFile.h5" '  
>  
> Did I miss something ? Some trick in strings management ?  
>
```

Does it work, to write the 2nd filename without any quotes:  
SPAWN,"C:\Program Files\myDir\myProg.exe" C:\directory name with  
spaces\myFile.h5'

On my windows  
spawn,"C:\Program Files\IrfanView\i\_view32.exe" D:\my dir\my  
photo.jpg'  
is working.

Can't explain why. It is windows. ;-)

HTH, Heinz

---

---

Subject: Re: SPAWN and strings  
Posted by [Ludo](#) on Fri, 05 Nov 2010 15:37:31 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

On 5 nov, 15:53, Heinz Stege <public.215....@arcor.de> wrote:  
> Does it work, to write the 2nd filename without any quotes:  
> SPAWN,"C:\Program Files\myDir\myProg.exe" C:\directory name with  
> spaces\myFile.h5'  
>  
> On my windows  
> spawn,"C:\Program Files\IrfanView\i\_view32.exe" D:\my dir\my  
> photo.jpg'  
> is working.

No, I already tried. That's because the program I use (HDFView) is  
expecting 0, 1 or more arguments, each one separated by a space. In  
your case it would try to open 3 files :

D:\my  
dir\my  
photo.jpg

So we have on one hand a valid IDL string (I can compile a routine  
containing it and print it). On the other hand exactly the same  
command can be used manually in Windows shell (cmd.exe) using copy/  
paste.

BUT using it as argument in SPAWN causes malfunctions with double-  
quotes ( " ).

As I said earlier, using the /NOSHELL keyword (thereby bypassing the  
use of a shell, see IDL Help) solved the issue.

Anyway, thanks for your help !

---

---

Subject: Re: SPAWN and strings  
Posted by [Ludo](#) on Fri, 05 Nov 2010 15:45:12 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

I'm guilty !

kBob your explanation is in the IDL Help :

<<

If your SPAWN command contains a directory name with spaces and you are using the < or > redirect tokens in a DOS window, you may receive an error. If so, you can create a temporary environment variable containing the command as follows:

```
setenv, 'MYARG="C:\test dir\ins" < "C:\test dir\refs" > ^  
"C:\test dir\outs"  
SPAWN, '%MYARG%'  
>>
```

---