
Subject: Re: inconsistent results running an absurdly simple function using 'spawn'
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 14 Dec 2011 18:33:16 GMT

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desertdryad writes:

>
> I have a problem that is making me batty, on IDL 7.0.
>
> I'm trying to use a simple function I wrote, that spawns a call to a
> Perl script. IT works as I expect, 'some of' the time in a
> predictable fashion. Here is the script:
>
>
> -----
> compile_opt idl2
>
> spawn, 'C:\\Cyndys\\WEATHER\\mesomech3.pl '+station, result
> print, result
> data=result[4]
>
> return, data
> end
> -----
>
> So, I wish the function to return the 4th line of output from the Perl
> script (which reads stuff from a web page for me).
>
> The first time in a session that I try to run this, it will NOT work;
> I get this error at run time:
>
> % Attempt to subscript RESULT with <LONG (4)> is out of
> range
>
> NOW, here's the bizarro part - if I take out 'return, data[4]' and
> replace it with 'return, data' the function works. But THEN, if I put
> that line of code back to 'return, data[4]' .. that then also works!
> What the Hey.
>
> I need to run this function without altering the code back and forth
> each session. Any idea what's going on, here??

This sounds like a PATH problem to me. Are you sure you don't have multiple versions of this program in different locations? I would try to make sure you are always calling the program you *think* you are calling.

IDL> Help, /Source

might give you some clues.

Cheers,

David

--

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.idlcoyote.com/>

Seppure ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: inconsistent results running an absurdly simple function using 'spawn'
Posted by [Carsten Lechte](#) on Wed, 14 Dec 2011 18:34:28 GMT

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On 12/14/2011 07:12 PM, desertdryad wrote:

> I need to run this function without altering the code back and forth
> each session. Any idea what's going on, here??

Add a "HELP, result" to check the number of elements. Does this change between calls to SPAWN?

Make sure you actually have recompiled the function when you change the RETURN statement.

chl
