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Subject: Spawning without a cmd.exe window  
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Thu, 18 Jul 2013 23:47:12 GMT  
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This is a question from someone who uses Windows about once a year.

I want to spawn from IDL to an external executable

```
spawn,'E:\ds9\ds9.exe'
```

and it works fine as the ds9 program is displayed. But I also get a cmd.exe window (which goes away when I exit the ds9 program). Is there a way to have the cmd.exe window not appear or to have it hidden?

Thanks, --Wayne

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Subject: Re: Spawning without a cmd.exe window  
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 18 Jul 2013 23:53:13 GMT  
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wlandsman writes:

> This is a question from someone who uses Windows about once a year.  
>  
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I don't think so. :-(

Cheers,

David

--

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

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Subject: Re: Spawning without a cmd.exe window  
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Fri, 19 Jul 2013 00:52:31 GMT  
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Actually, if I would just look at the documentation, I would have found the Windows-only /HIDE keyword to SPAWN. --Wayne

On Thursday, July 18, 2013 7:53:13 PM UTC-4, David Fanning wrote:

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Subject: Re: Spawning without a cmd.exe window  
Posted by [Heinz Stege](#) on Fri, 19 Jul 2013 00:52:33 GMT  
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On Thu, 18 Jul 2013 16:47:12 -0700 (PDT), wlandsman wrote:

> This is a question from someone who uses Windows about once a year.  
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>  
> Thanks, --Wayne

Yes, set the /NOSHELL keyword and there is no such window.

If you don't want IDL to wait for the spawned process to finish, set the /NOWAIT keyword also.

Cheers, Heinz

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Subject: Re: Spawning without a cmd.exe window  
Posted by [Heinz Stege](#) on Fri, 19 Jul 2013 00:58:51 GMT  
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On Thu, 18 Jul 2013 17:52:31 -0700 (PDT), wlandsman wrote:

> Actually, if I would just look at the documentation, I would have found the Windows-only /HIDE keyword to SPAWN. --Wayne  
>  
However the /HIDE keyword makes only half the job. The cmd.exe window lives on as an icon in the task bar. Try /NOSHELL.

Cheers, Heinz

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Subject: Re: Spawning without a cmd.exe window  
Posted by [wlandsman](#) on Fri, 19 Jul 2013 01:08:58 GMT  
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Heinz,

Thanks. Using /NoShell instead of /HIDE also seems to speed things up a bit. --Wayne

On Thursday, July 18, 2013 8:58:51 PM UTC-4, Heinz Stege wrote:

> On Thu, 18 Jul 2013 17:52:31 -0700 (PDT), wlandsman wrote:

>

>

>

>> Actually, if I would just look at the documentation, I would have found the Windows-only /HIDE keyword to SPAWN. --Wayne

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