Subject: Test if a linux command is available with Spawn
Posted by Fabzi on Wed, 16 Oct 2013 12:08:51 GMT
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Hi IDLers,

I want to write a clipboard copy/paste function with IDL on Linux
systems. This is really straightforward with xclip. I just need to know
if the system I am working on has xclip installed. Based on
cgHasImageMagick, I could do:

IDL> Spawn, 'xclip -version', result, error_result

But xclip returns the version in the STDERR stream:

IDL> print, result

IDL> print, error_result
xclip version 0.12 Copyright (C) 2001-2008 Kim Saunders et al.
Distributed under the terms of the GNU GPL

This ok for me, but how to be sure that this is the case on all linux
systems?

Is there a "more general way" to do this?

Thanks a lot,

Fabien

Subject: Re: Test if a linux command is available with Spawn
Posted by Phillip Bitzer on Wed, 16 Oct 2013 14:12:24 GMT
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How about spawning "which", which should fairly standard on *nix:

spawn, 'which xclip', result

Subject: Re: Test if a linux command is available with Spawn
Posted by Carsten Lechte on Thu, 17 Oct 2013 12:56:31 GMT
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On 16/10/13 14:08, Fabien wrote:
> Is there a "more general way" to do this?

I would do it this way:

IDL> spawn, 'ls awoiefsdkf 2>&1 ', asdf
IDL> print, asdf
ls: cannot access awoiefsdkf: No such file or directory

This forces the STDERR output into the STDOUT output. It works regardless of
if and what the command chooses to print where.

Please note that I only said the I would do it this way, not that it is an
elegent way of doing this.

Anyway, I thought this should be pretty general. Then I remembered that shells
other than bash exist. So, one would have to do both bash and csh versions. Or
force /bin/bash. Sorry.

chl

Subject: Re: Test if a linux command is available with Spawn
Posted by Carsten Lechte on Thu, 17 Oct 2013 13:00:18 GMT
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On 17/10/13 14:56, Carsten Lechte wrote:
> Anyway, I thought this should be pretty general. Then I remembered that shells
> other than bash exist. So, one would have to do both bash and csh versions. Or
> force /bin/bash. Sorry.

In conclusion, it is probably best to concatenate your result and error_result
variables and work on that.

chl

Subject: Re: Test if a linux command is available with Spawn
Posted by chris_torrence@NOSPAM on Thu, 17 Oct 2013 16:25:06 GMT
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On Wednesday, October 16, 2013 6:08:51 AM UTC-6, Fabien wrote:
> Hi IDLers,
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>
> I want to write a clipboard copy/paste function with IDL on Linux
>
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> This ok for me, but how to be sure that this is the case on all linux
>
> systems?
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>
> Is there a "more general way" to do this?
>
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>
> Thanks a lot,
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>
>
> Fabien

Hi Fabien,
If you are just looking to copy/paste text (not images or files), and you can wait until IDL 8.3, we
are adding routines to provide access to the system clipboard (text only) on all platforms.
Cheers,
Chris

VIS

Subject: Re: Test if a linux command is available with Spawn
Posted by Michael Galloy on Thu, 17 Oct 2013 18:30:57 GMT

On 10/16/13 8:12 AM, Phillip Bitzer wrote:
> How about spawning "which", which should fairly standard on *nix:
>
> spawn, 'which xclip', result
>

I would check the EXIT_STATUS on "which xclip":

IDL> spawn, 'which xclip', stdout, stderr, exit_status=xclip_error
IDL> help, xclip_error
XCLIP_ERROR   LONG   =   1

Error code not 1 means there was a problem, in this case I don't have
xclip. If I have the program, it's like this:

IDL> spawn, 'which ls', stdout, stderr, exit_status=ls_error
IDL> help, ls_error
LS_ERROR   LONG   =   0

In this case, I don't need stdout/stderr output, but calling SPAWN with
them suppresses output to the output log.

Mike
--
Michael Galloy
www.michaelgalloy.com
Modern IDL: A Guide to IDL Programming (http://modernidl.idldev.com)
Research Mathematician
Tech-X Corporation

Subject: Re: Test if a linux command is available with Spawn
Posted by Fabzi on Fri, 18 Oct 2013 09:00:49 GMT

Thanks everyone for the replies! Good to know that IDL8.3 will support
clipboard copy/paste. In the mean time I'll use Mike's solution with the
exit status. Thanks!