
Subject: Re: Implementing Time-outs in IDL
Posted by [Phil Williams](#) on Sat, 04 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT
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Steve wrote:

> If the daemon server is off-line the spawn command hangs. Is there a way
> in IDL to cause a command to time-out? I would like my program to continue
> executing if the spawn command does not return a result in X seconds.
>
> Thanks, Steve

Why not first run spawn to ping the machine or check the active processes for the daemon. Here's checkhost which will check to see if a host is awake.

```
function checkhost, host, packets
; Uses spawn to ping host to check to see status. Tested w/ IRIX5.3
; results will need to be parsed differently on different systems.
; The results from ping -q -c packets host:
;   PING www6.yahoo.com (204.71.177.71): 56 data bytes
;
;
;   ----www6.yahoo.com PING Statistics----
;   10 packets transmitted, 10 packets received, 0% packet loss
;   round-trip min/avg/max = 83/84/85 ms
;
; IDL> print,checkhost('www.yahoo.com')
;      1
```

```
on_error, 1
```

```
if n_elements(packets) eq 0 then packets = 10
```

```
;--- spawn a ping to check the host status
cmd = "ping -q -c " + strtrim(packets,2) + " " + host
spawn,['/bin/sh', "-c", cmd],/noshell,results
```

```
;--- Get info line for packets transmitted / received
which = strpos(results, 'packets')
found = where(which ne -1, count)
if count eq 0 then message, 'No ping info found for '+host
info = results(found(0))
```

```
;--- Now parse the info string
comma = strpos(info, ',')
transString = strmid(info,0,comma(0))
```

```
info = strmid(info,comma(0)+1,strlen(info))
comma = strpos(info, ',')
```

```
receivedString = strmid(info,0,comma(0))
```

```
percentString = strmid(info,comma(0)+1,strlen(info))
```

```
;--- Decide whether host is alive on the percent
```

```
p = strpos(percentString, '%')
```

```
percent = fix(strmid(percentString, 0, p))
```

```
if percent gt 10 then return, 0 else return, 1
```

```
end
```

```
--
```

```
/*****
```

```
Phil Williams, Ph.D.
```

```
Research Instructor
```

```
Children's Hospital Medical Center "One man gathers what
```

```
Imaging Research Center          another man spills..."
```

```
3333 Burnet Ave.                  -The Grateful Dead
```

```
Cincinnati, OH 45229
```

```
email: williams@irc.chmcc.org
```

```
URL: http://scuttle.chmcc.org/~williams/
```

```
*****/
```

Subject: Re: Implementing Time-outs in IDL

Posted by [steinhh](#) on Sat, 04 Jan 1997 08:00:00 GMT

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In article <XXX-0301972303470001@biad27.uthscsa.edu>, XXX (Steve) writes:

|> If the daemon server is off-line the spawn command hangs. Is there a way

|> in IDL to cause a command to time-out? I would like my program to continue

|> executing if the spawn command does not return a result in X seconds.

Probably the best thing would be to rewrite your spawned command so that you can start it in the background, piping the results to a file for retrieval by IDL. I.e.,

```
spawn,"daemon > daemon.out &"
```

```
wait,10
```

```
<read file daemon.out>
```

Stein Vidar H. Haugan
