
Subject: Re: Starting ftp from IDL
Posted by [thompson](#) on Fri, 24 Apr 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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Martin Fuhrer wrote:

>
> Hi IDL Experts
>
> I'm writing an IDL application and I want to create a button which
> starts a ftp-based file transfer automatically. The address of the
> host and the user name can be hardwired somewhere in the code.
> I've tried to start ftp from the command line and I got the following
> error message:
> IDL> \$ftp myhost
> (myhost::myuser:) login: Access of user wdenied.
>
> Any hint on how to implement this feature is very appreciated by

We've addressed this exact same question. This is the approach we've taken.
An IDL procedure writes out a temporary shell script containing the proper
commands, e.g.

```
#!/bin/csh
cd /mydir
ftp -n << done remote.computer.address
user username password
cd /mydir
ascii
put my.file "my.file"
quit
done
```

Then we spawn the commands

```
SPAWN, "source temporary.file", junk
SPAWN, "rm temporary.file", junk
```

William Thompson

Subject: Re: Starting ftp from IDL
Posted by [David Foster](#) on Fri, 24 Apr 1998 07:00:00 GMT
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I believe the problems you are having are due to insufficient
access rights for ftp on the server. I can do:

```
IDL> $ftp host
```

with no problems. If you put the file .netrc in your home
directory then you can connect without having to type username/pwds.
This file can include, among other things, lines like:

```
machine your-host login your-username password your-password
```

I recommend getting XFTP, a great gui ftp utility that is very
easy to use, and allows recursive transfers of directory structures.
You could SPAWN this program from within IDL:

```
spawn, 'xftp', /noshell, pid=pid
```

Note that IDL will be suspended until you quit the program. The
keyword PID returns the process ID of the program. The /NOSHELL
keyword is for UNIX only.

You can get XFTP from:

<http://www.llnl.gov/ia/xftp.html>

Hope this is useful.

Dave

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