Subject: Non-Blocking I/O
Posted by Ruediger Kupper on Thu, 11 Feb 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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Hi!

This is a question regarding Inter Process Communication
(IPC) in a UNIX environment:

Is there any way to tell IDL not to wait for the next
incoming data when reading from a file?
Attempting to read from an IPC channel (a pipe or fifo)
using READF or READU will cause IDL to hang until this read
attempt is successful. (Pipes or fifos do not produce an
EOF-signal unless they are explicitely closed by all sending
processes.) This blocking behaviour is undesired if you need
to check more than one IPC channel for any waiting data, or
if you want to incorporate such a check into an event loop.

The only solution I can think of is to provide support for
non-blocking I/O by a set of C-routines which could be
linked to IDL via CALL_EXTAERNAL, but I would prefer using
any "pure IDL" concept.

If anyone out there ran into the same problem, this person
could make a poor, frustrated IDL-programmer very happy by
posting me a little hint...

Best regards,
Ruediger.

Subject: Re: Non-Blocking I/O
Posted by Ruediger Kupper on Tue, 16 Feb 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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Eric J. Korpela wrote:

> [...] Well, having the thread occur on a weekend probably doesn't help the
> response volume.

How true, how true...

> I have been down this road before, and basically
> have come to the conclusion that if IDL doesn't have what you want, adding
> it, while not exactly trivial, is pretty damn easy.
>

> Now no one is beating down the door to get to my web site and get VARRAY
> (which will add some shared memory support to IDL). No one has expressed
> much interest in asking me to speed up publication of a multiprocessing
> library for IDL (see examples given on this group a couple months ago.)

...well... Obviously I didn't pay attention to comp.lang.idl-pvwave at this time, sorry.
As to expressing interest: I would do so. If you are developing a multiprocessing library for IDL, I would seriously appreciate you publishing it.

> I've been using standard UNIX IPC mechanisms in IDL for a couple years now,
> but haven't taken the effort to make my software available.

Again, I would appreciate you doing so. It is exactly what I'm looking for.

> [...] Maybe the demand doesn't exist?

It does. :)

Best regards, Ruediger.
