

Re: exec() gives output??

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From: Jürgen Exner (jurgenex_at_hotmail.com)

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Experienced but Undocumented wrote:

> *I'd like to execute a command on the server*

What server? WAIS? NTFS? HTTP? FTP?

> *from a PERL script. This*

> *particular command takes a long time to execute, so I would not like*

> *the PERL script to wait for a response. I was under the impression*

> *that exec() would do the trick, but it doesn't...*

Well, it can't.

A successful call to `exec()` replaces the Perl script with whatever `exec()` is calling. So there is nothing left that could possibly wait for a response from `exec()`.

> *it seems to work the*

> *same as system().*

That's not correct. As the manual clearly states:

system LIST

system PROGRAM LIST

Does exactly the same thing as "exec LIST", except that a fork is done first, and the parent process waits for the child process to complete. [...]

Did you even bother to read even the first sentence of the documentation for the functions you are using?

> *Any suggestions?*

Either start the external program from `system()` in the background (how to do that depends on your OS and may not be possible on all OSes) or use `fork()`. Details please see the man page for `fork`.

jue