

## Re: Execute Windows program from Perl script (??)

**Source:** <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Perl/comp.lang.perl.misc/2004-09/0607.html>

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tony@paradoxcommunity.com (Tony McGuire) wrote in message  
news:<f896a829.0408290616.31b184ef@posting.google.com>...

> *Well, I'm going to take the easy way out.*

>

> *I'll just write something to a file with perl, and have the scheduler  
> watch for that file to be modified.*

>

> *Then the scheduler program can start the external program.*

>

> *Thank you to everyone who participated. I really do appreciate the  
> feedback, regardless of whether it helped or not.*

Hi all,

Lucky me, I just ran into this problem this morning, so I thought  
I'd chime in on how I got mine to work ... It's really more of  
an Apache config question, but what the hey; Perl is the most used  
CGI program anyway (AFAIK).

My Simple problem description; I have a VB program that I wanted  
a user to be able to run on my Apache/Perl equipped server –  
I tried this originally with a 1–liner Perl CGI script;

```
#!/c:/Perl/perl.exe -w  
system("m:/bah/blah/vbrunprogram.exe");
```

...obviously, it was installed under cgi–bin and it was a  
UNIX–style ascii file and all that stuff – It worked when I  
called it from a command window but my Apache logs always  
said "Access Denied" when called from a browser.

There were two things going on;

First, it was a file on a networked drive and apache didn't  
know the first thing about what to do with it–

Second; Apache doesn't use your logon account; It *could*\*, but  
it DEFINITELY is not very adviseable!!!

comp.lang.perl.misc: Re: Execute Windows program from Perl script (??)

I solved the problem by having the cgi "1-liner" script call a DOS bat file with a "net use" wrapper around it;

```
C:\cat script.bat
NET USE M: \\machine\mtpoint
m:/bah/blah/vbrunprogram.exe
NET USE M: /DELETE
```

...and change the script to call the bat file;

```
#!/c:/Perl/perl.exe -w
system("script.bat");
```

Be warned; the "system" call will dump everything from the BAT file onto the user's browser– don't put any embarrassing comments in it!

Hope this helps,  
K.c