

spawn

*This command is specific to...
IBM PC XT or AT compatible*

spawn uses a special syntax. If you specify an argument, the rest of the command is treated as a string to be used by the local operating system. If you do not specify an argument, **spawn** runs interactively.

Use **spawn** to escape temporarily from Semper to the local operating system. This is useful, for example, for editing programs that you can only list in Semper or for returning to the operating system without losing picture data from any scratch disks that are assigned.

You can also use **spawn** to run operating system commands, specified on the Semper command line.

Examples

```
spawn
```

This command creates an interactive DOS command interpreter.

```
spawn 'format a:'
```

This command runs the DOS utility to format drive A.

```
n=27  
spawn 'cd \results\run',n
```

This sequence of commands changes the current directory to \RESULTS\RUN27.

Description

To return to Semper after an interactive spawn use the DOS command **exit**, as shown in the following sequence of commands:

```
spawn  
dir a:  
type results.log  
exit
```

Do not run any programs that remain resident whilst spawned from Semper, as this will fragment the DOS memory until you next reboot your PC.

If there is not enough memory for the spawning process, the system may halt. To verify that there is sufficient memory, run the DOS utility CHKDSK before running Semper. If there is less than 540,000 bytes available you may not be able to spawn.

spawn

*This command is specific to...
DEC VAX*

spawn uses a special syntax. If you specify an argument, the rest of the command is treated as a string to be used by the local operating system. If you do not specify an argument, **spawn** runs interactively.

Use **spawn** to escape temporarily from Semper to the local operating system. This is useful, for example, for editing programs that you can only list in Semper or for returning to the operating system without losing picture data from any scratch disks that are assigned.

You can also use **spawn** to run operating system commands, specified on the Semper command line.

Examples

```
spawn
```

This command creates an interactive DCL command interpreter.

```
spawn 'show system'
```

This command runs the DCL utility to show processes on the local system.

```
n=27  
spawn 'rename output.dat run',n'.results'
```

This sequence of commands renames the file *output.dat* to *run27.results*.

Description

To return to Semper after an interactive spawn use the DCL commands **eoj**, **logout** or **logoff**, as shown in the following example:

```
spawn  
dir  
ed results.log  
eoj
```