

Inherit handles from the parent process

Inherit handles from the parent process :

```
BOOL CreateProcess(  
    lpApplicationName,    // Path to the executable  
    lpCommandLine,       // Command-line arguments  
    lpProcessAttributes, // Security attributes for the process  
    lpThreadAttributes,  // Security attributes for the primary thread  
    bInheritHandles,     // Inherit handles from parent process  
    dwCreationFlags,     // Process creation flags  
    lpEnvironment,       // Pointer to environment block  
    lpCurrentDirectory,  // Working directory of the new process  
    lpStartupInfo,       // Pointer to STARTUPINFO structure  
    lpProcessInformation // Pointer to PROCESS_INFORMATION structure  
);
```



output.txt



```
HANDLE hFile = CreateFile ("output.txt",  
FILE_APPEND_DATA,  
FILE_SHARE_WRITE,  
NULL, //Security attributes  
CREATE_ALWAYS,  
FILE_ATTRIBUTE_NORMAL,  
NULL);
```

Parent Process



output.txt

```
HANDLE hFile = CreateFile ("output.txt",  
FILE_APPEND_DATA,  
FILE_SHARE_WRITE,  
NULL, //Security attributes  
CREATE_ALWAYS,  
FILE_ATTRIBUTE_NORMAL,  
NULL);
```

Parent Process


```
CreateProcess(NULL,  
cmdLine,  
NULL, //Security attributes proc  
NULL, //Security attributes thrd  
FALSE, //inherit handle  
0,  
NULL,  
NULL,  
&si, &pi)
```

Child process





output.txt

 Not allowed

Want to use it

Parent Process

```
HANDLE hFile = CreateFile ("output.txt",
FILE_APPEND_DATA,
FILE_SHARE_WRITE,
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Child process



How to solve this issue ?



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Parent Process

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CreateProcess(NULL,
cmdLine,
NULL, //Security attributes proc
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FALSE, //inherit handle
0,
NULL,
NULL,
NULL,
&si, &pi)
```

```
SECURITY_ATTRIBUTES sa = { sizeof(sa), NULL, TRUE };
```

Create a security attributes

Want to use it


Child process



```
typedef struct _SECURITY_ATTRIBUTES {
    DWORD nLength; //structure length
    LPVOID lpSecurityDescriptor;
    BOOL bInheritHandle;
} SECURITY_ATTRIBUTES;
```



output.txt

 Not allowed

Want to use it

Parent Process

```

HANDLE hFile = CreateFile ("output.txt",
FILE_APPEND_DATA,
FILE_SHARE_WRITE,
NULL, //Security attributes
CREATE_ALWAYS,
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NULL);

```

```

SECURITY_ATTRIBUTES sa = { sizeof(sa), NULL, TRUE };

```

Use this sa to inherit handle from parent to child

```

CreateProcess(NULL,
cmdLine,
NULL, //Security attributes proc
NULL, //Security attributes thrd
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```

Child process





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Parent Process

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HANDLE hFile = CreateFile ("output.txt",
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FILE_SHARE_WRITE,
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CREATE_ALWAYS,
FILE_ATTRIBUTE_NORMAL,
NULL);

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```

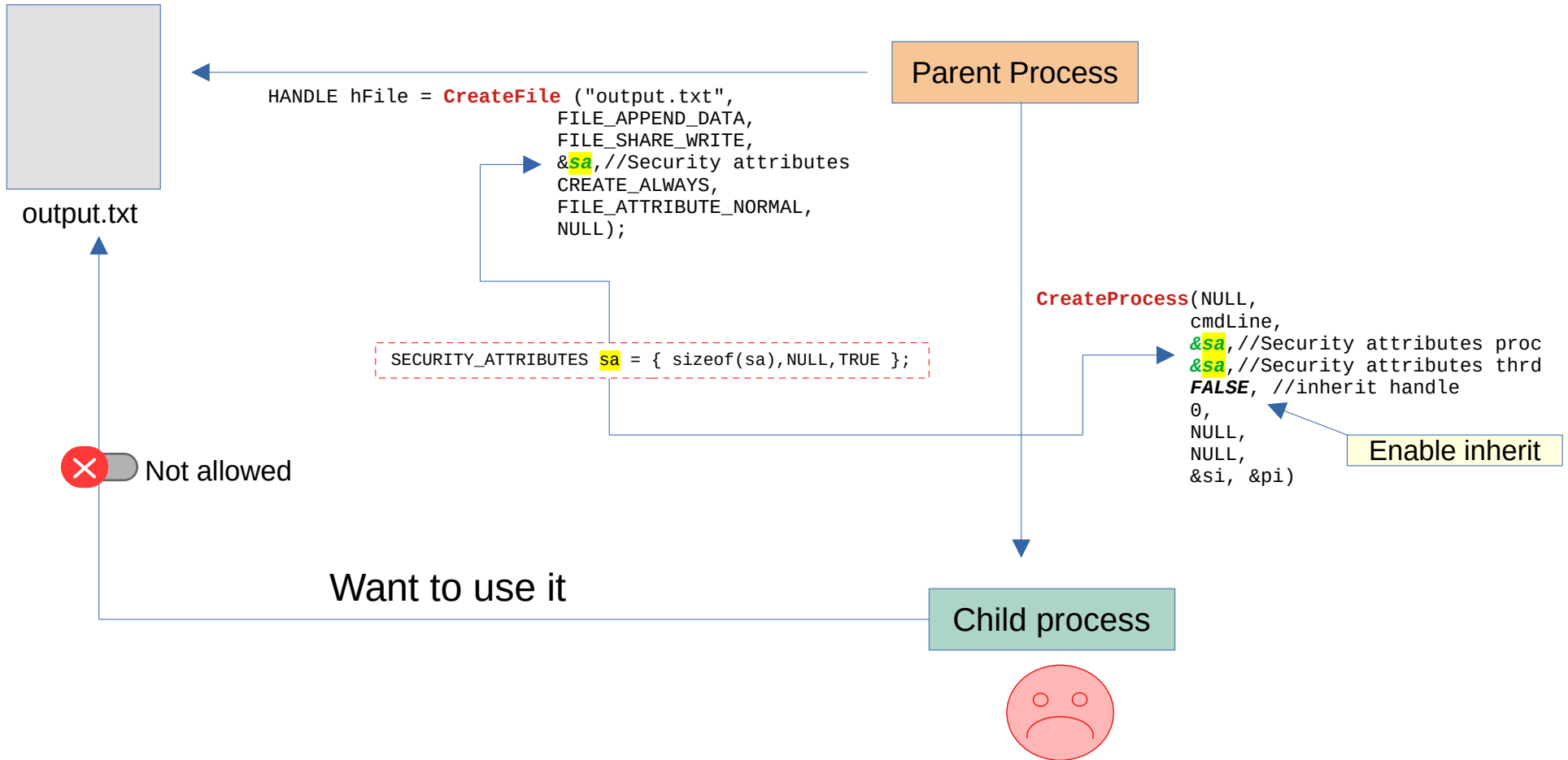
```

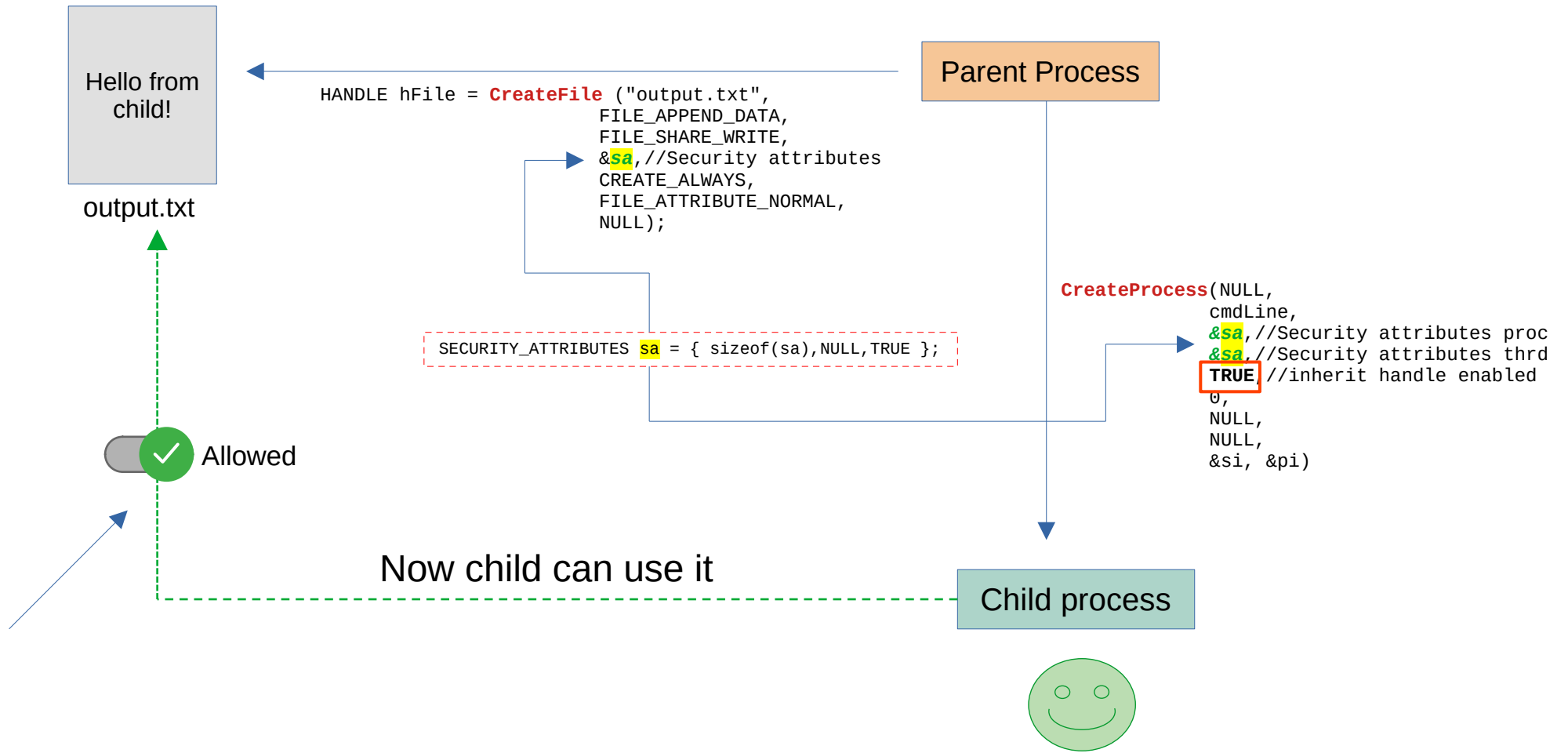
CreateProcess(NULL,
cmdLine,
&sa, //Security attributes proc
&sa, //Security attributes thrd
FALSE, //inherit handle
0,
NULL,
NULL,
&si, &pi)

```

Child process







Parent.c

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <windows.h>

int main() {

    SECURITY_ATTRIBUTES sa = { sizeof(sa),NULL,TRUE };

    // Create an inheritable file handle

    HANDLE hFile = CreateFile ("output.txt", FILE_APPEND_DATA, FILE_SHARE_WRITE, &sa, CREATE_ALWAYS, FILE_ATTRIBUTE_NORMAL, NULL);
    if (hFile == INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE) {
        printf("Failed to create file. Error: %d\n", GetLastError());
        return 1;
    }

    // Write to the file
    DWORD written;
    WriteFile(hFile, "Hello from Parent!\n", 19, &written, NULL);

    // Convert handle to string (so the child process can receive it)
    char handleStr[20];
    sprintf(handleStr, " %llu", (unsigned long long)hFile); // Add a leading space

    // Prepare process startup information
    STARTUPINFO si = { sizeof(si) };
    PROCESS_INFORMATION pi;

    // Correctly format the command line
    char cmdLine[150];
    sprintf(cmdLine, "\"C:\\Users\\John\\Documents\\Temp\\child.exe\"%s", handleStr);

    // Create child process
    if (!CreateProcess(NULL, cmdLine, &sa, &sa, TRUE, 0, NULL, NULL, &si, &pi))
    {
        printf("CreateProcess failed. Error: %d\n", GetLastError());
        return 1;
    }

    Sleep(50);
    printf("Parent: Created child process with PID %d\n", pi.dwProcessId);

    // Close handles
    CloseHandle(pi.hProcess);
    CloseHandle(pi.hThread);
    CloseHandle(hFile);
    return 0;
}
```

Parent.c

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <windows.h>
```

```
int main() {
```

```
    SECURITY_ATTRIBUTES sa = { sizeof(sa), NULL, TRUE };
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→ Creating security attributes

```
    // Create an inheritable file handle
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```
    HANDLE hFile = CreateFile ("output.txt", FILE_APPEND_DATA, FILE_SHARE_WRITE, &sa, CREATE_ALWAYS, FILE_ATTRIBUTE_NORMAL, NULL);
    if (hFile == INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE) {
        printf("Failed to create file. Error: %d\n", GetLastError());
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    DWORD written;
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    char cmdLine[150];
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```

```
    // Create child process
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```
    if (!CreateProcess(NULL, cmdLine, &sa, &sa, TRUE, 0, NULL, NULL, &si, &pi))
```

```
    {
        printf("CreateProcess failed. Error: %d\n", GetLastError());
        return 1;
    }
```

```
    Sleep(50);
```

```
    printf("Parent: Created child process with PID %d\n", pi.dwProcessId);
```

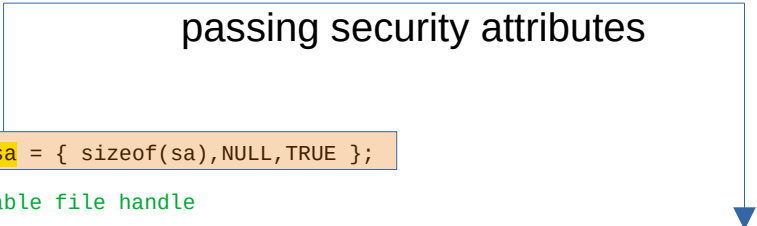
```
    // Close handles
```

```
    CloseHandle(pi.hProcess);
    CloseHandle(pi.hThread);
    CloseHandle(hFile);
    return 0;
```

```
}
```

Parent.c

passing security attributes



```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <windows.h>

int main() {
    SECURITY_ATTRIBUTES sa = { sizeof(sa), NULL, TRUE };

    // Create an inheritable file handle
    HANDLE hFile = CreateFile ("output.txt", FILE_APPEND_DATA, FILE_SHARE_WRITE, &sa, CREATE_ALWAYS, FILE_ATTRIBUTE_NORMAL, NULL);
    if (hFile == INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE) {
        printf("Failed to create file. Error: %d\n", GetLastError());
        return 1;
    }

    // Write to the file
    DWORD written;
    WriteFile(hFile, "Hello from Parent!\n", 19, &written, NULL);

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    // Prepare process startup information
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    // Correctly format the command line
    char cmdLine[150];
    sprintf(cmdLine, "%C:\\Users\\John\\Documents\\Temp\\child.exe\\%s", handleStr);

    // Create child process
    if (!CreateProcess(NULL, cmdLine, &sa, &sa, TRUE, 0, NULL, NULL, &si, &pi))
    {
        printf("CreateProcess failed. Error: %d\n", GetLastError());
        return 1;
    }
    Sleep(50);
    printf("Parent: Created child process with PID %d\n", pi.dwProcessId);

    // Close handles
    CloseHandle(pi.hProcess);
    CloseHandle(pi.hThread);
    CloseHandle(hFile);
    return 0;
}
```

Parent.c

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <windows.h>
```

```
int main() {
```

```
    SECURITY_ATTRIBUTES sa = { sizeof(sa), NULL, TRUE };
```

```
    // Create an inheritable file handle
```

```
    HANDLE hFile = CreateFile ("output.txt", FILE_APPEND_DATA, FILE_SHARE_WRITE, &sa, CREATE_ALWAYS, FILE_ATTRIBUTE_NORMAL, NULL);
    if (hFile == INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE) {
        printf("Failed to create file. Error: %d\n", GetLastError());
        return 1;
    }
```

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    // Write to the file
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    DWORD written;
    WriteFile(hFile, "Hello from Parent!\n", 19, &written, NULL);
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    char cmdLine[150];
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    // Create child process
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    if (!CreateProcess(NULL, cmdLine, &sa, &sa, TRUE, 0, NULL, NULL, &si, &pi))
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    {
        printf("CreateProcess failed. Error: %d\n", GetLastError());
        return 1;
    }
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    Sleep(50);
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    printf("Parent: Created child process with PID %d\n", pi.dwProcessId);
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    // Close handles
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    CloseHandle(pi.hProcess);
    CloseHandle(pi.hThread);
    CloseHandle(hFile);
    return 0;
```

passing security attributes

```
graph TD
    A[SECURITY_ATTRIBUTES sa = { sizeof(sa), NULL, TRUE };] --> B[CreateFile(..., &sa, ...)]
```

Parent.c

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <windows.h>
```

```
int main() {
```

```
SECURITY_ATTRIBUTES sa = { sizeof(sa), NULL, TRUE };
```

```
// Create an inheritable file handle
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```
HANDLE hFile = CreateFile ("output.txt", FILE_APPEND_DATA, FILE_SHARE_WRITE, &sa, CREATE_ALWAYS, FILE_ATTRIBUTE_NORMAL, NULL);
if (hFile == INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE) {
    printf("Failed to create file. Error: %d\n", GetLastError());
    return 1;
}
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```
// Write to the file
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```
DWORD written;
WriteFile(hFile, "Hello from Parent!\n", 19, &written, NULL);
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```
// Convert handle to string (so the child process can receive it)
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```
char handleStr[20];
sprintf(handleStr, "%llu", (unsigned long long)hFile); // Add a leading space
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```
// Prepare process startup information
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STARTUPINFO si = { sizeof(si) };
PROCESS_INFORMATION pi;
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```
// Correctly format the command line
```

```
char cmdLine[150];
sprintf(cmdLine, "%C:\\Users\\John\\Documents\\Temp\\child.exe\\%s", handleStr);
```

```
// Create child process
```

```
if (!CreateProcess(NULL, cmdLine, &sa, &sa, TRUE, 0, NULL, NULL, &si, &pi))
```

```
{
    printf("CreateProcess failed. Error: %d\n", GetLastError());
    return 1;
}
```

```
Sleep(50);
printf("Parent: Created child process with PID %d\n", pi.dwProcessId);
```

```
// Close handles
```

```
CloseHandle(pi.hProcess);
CloseHandle(pi.hThread);
CloseHandle(hFile);
return 0;
```

```
}
```

passing security attributes

Child.c

```
#include <windows.h>
#include <stdio.h>

int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    if (argc != 2) {
        printf("Child: No handle received!\n");
        return 1;
    }

    // Convert string back to HANDLE
    HANDLE hFile = (HANDLE)_strtoi64(argv[1], NULL, 10);

    if (hFile == INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE) {
        printf("Child: Invalid handle received!\n");
        return 1;
    }

    // Write to the inherited file handle

    DWORD bytesWritten;
    const char *message = "Hello from the child process!\n";
    WriteFile(hFile, message, strlen(message), &bytesWritten, NULL);

    printf("Child: Wrote to file using inherited handle.\n");

    // Close the file handle
    CloseHandle(hFile);
    return 0;
}
```