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Subject: Re: A couple of IDL for NT questions  
Posted by [davidf](#) on Tue, 11 Nov 1997 08:00:00 GMT  
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Peter Webb (peter\_webb@hpl.hp.com) writes:

- > As someone who has recently started using IDL on an NT platform after a
- > few years on Unix, I have a couple of annoyances. If they are fixable,
- > I'd be grateful to hear how!
- >
- > 1. To type commands, the mouse has to be clicked in that tiny little
- > window at the bottom of the screen. I'd prefer that the prompt received
- > mouse focus whenever nobody else has it, e.g. if I click in the command
- > log, I can't type there, so why not give me a useful focus? Does anyone
- > actually prefer the splitting of the command prompt from the command
- > log?

I would prefer that if I clicked in the command log window that I am put into the command input window, but a Control-W gets me into the command input window pretty quickly if my hands are too shaky to point correctly.

- > 2. Is there some way of automatically running main level scripts? Sort
- > of like shift F5, but issue a .run. I'd use this all the time! and I'd
- > care less about number 1 above.

Shift-F5 works on my NT machine. You can also click that funny button in the middle of the command buttons that looks like a stack of books with a blue thermometer. This can't be right, but I don't know what the folks at RSI had in mind here. I love the stack of books that has the yellow starburst on it. I use it all the time to compile my programs. :-)

- > 3. This is the biggy. Once I've started a calculation, and realized I
- > started it wrong, how do I kill it? I used to just type Control-C, but
- > this apparently has no effect. The only way to kill a run-away loop is
- > via the NT task-manager?

Try Control-Break. That is the interrupt key combination.

- > P.S. And while I'm at it, I've been using VB 5.0 lately, and I've really
- > gotten to like the flyover variable values when stopped at a breakpoint.
- > Makes checking out a bunch of variable values \*very\* fast. Maybe in
- > 6.0?

I'm not familiar with this, but I like the way you can select a variable and click the Print Variable macro and gets its value printed out. I imagine it wouldn't be too hard to write

your own macro for "print all local variables", or whatever.

Cheers,

David

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