
Subject: Re: Ringing the bell?

Posted by [thompson](#) on Wed, 28 Feb 2001 15:02:44 GMT

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"Harvey Rarback" <rarback@slac.stanford.edu> writes:

> Folks,

> I am writing a turnkey interactive widget application in IDL 5.3 on an
> OpenVMS platform. I start command line IDL in a VMS batch queue using an
> IDL batch file so that the user never
> sees the IDL prompt. The only thing that doesn't work with this scheme is
> that I haven't figured out a way to ring the bell when the user does
> something wrong. One workaround is to start an iconized terminal from the
> batch queue and send IDL's output there. Then

> print, string(7b), format = '(a,\$)'

> will ring the bell, but this introduces an extra terminal window and seems
> awfully tacky.

> Sometime back, IDL seems to have acquired the undocumented built-in 'beep'
> which also doesn't work if there is no terminal to send the output to.

> I did a little experiment on IDL 5.4 running on a Tru64 Unix platform. Here
> the command line IDL rings the bell with the print statement, but seems to
> ring the bell for the beep command only when I *exit* IDL. For idlde, the
> beep command works, but the print statement just outputs a funky degree-like
> symbol.

> Can anyone shed some light on the mysterious 'beep' procedure and help me
> out in ringing the bell?

This must be a bug in IDL 5.4, because all previous versions of IDL on my Tru64 Unix platform ring the bell when you enter the 'beep' command. I get the same behavior as you, though, with IDL 5.4.

Bill Thompson
