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Subject: Re: array dimensions

Posted by [Paul van Delst](#) on Mon, 09 Apr 2001 16:49:14 GMT

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JD Smith wrote:

>  
> Paul van Delst wrote:  
>>  
>> Martin Schultz wrote:  
>>>  
>>> Not a favorite keyword, but a favorite tool: Get a decent system (if  
>>> you haven't one), install emacs with idlwave, run the routine-info  
>>> collection, and then you have all the keywords you never knew but  
>>> always dreamt about literally at your fingertips.  
>>  
>> Similar to typing "?" at the IDL prompt and getting similar info - with examples no less!  
>> Gasp!  
>  
> Not even \*sort of\* similar. Yes, it's the same information (Carsten  
> simply process the pdf manuals to get the documentation). But the  
> access is amazingly better. Example:  
>  
> IDL> d=size(myvar,/

I type "size" <Enter> in the Online help window (after alt-tab-ing to the app, or moving mouse over app).

>  
> Possible completions are:  
> DIMENSIONS                    FILE\_LUN  
> L64                            N\_DIMENSIONS  
> N\_ELEMENTS                    STRUCTURE  
> TNAME                         TYPE  
>  
> Aha, DIMENSIONS, I think that's it. Why don't I right click on it to  
> find out. Up pops in the help window with help on size() displayed,

Help on size() is displayed for me and, if required <pageDown> gets me to "DIMENSIONS"

> and queued up to:  
>  
> DIMENSIONS  
> Set this keyword to return the dimensions  
> of Expression. If Expression is scalar, the  
> result is a scalar containing a 0. For arrays,  
> the result is an array containing the array

> dimensions. ...  
>  
> OK, dimensions it is, middle click on it:

don't take my hands off keyboard, but

> IDL> d=size(myvar,/DIMENSIONS

that's pretty neat (inserting it automagically like that).

> Aren't there some other arguments to size()? I don't recall. I'll just  
> show the calling syntax. [C-c ?]. Here comes:  
>  
> Usage: Result = SIZE( Expression)  
> Keywords: DIMENSIONS FILE\_LUN L64 N\_DIMENSIONS N\_ELEMENTS STRUCTURE  
> TNAME TYPE  
> Source: Builtin

I get that up front.

>  
> Hmm. I guess not. But what is that STRUCTURE keyword all about. I don't  
> remember that one. Why not right click on it (it's blue, which means it  
> exists in the help).

Once again: <pageDown> (if required)

> STRUCTURE  
> Set this keyword to return all available  
> information about Expression in a structure.  
>  
> OK, I'll file that away for a rainy day.

Me too.

> As you can see, you soon  
> become intimately aware of all the keywords in all your favorite  
> routines, and able to summon them into existence with a few keystrokes.

Me too.

> One positive side effect of keyword completion is that I am no longer  
> lazy when it comes to partial keywords (OK I'm still lazy, but IDLWAVE  
> is not). No longer is my code littered with fragments like  
> "a=size(var,/DIME)" and other non-sequiturs.

I never did that anyway (except for /INFO instead of /INFORMATIONAL since "info" is a common, understood contraction.) since I have an horrendous memory - but I concede that

keyword completion is an extremely handy/good-for-eliminating-fat-finger-errors type of thing. When I first started using emacs, I found there was just too many ctrl-alt-esc-shift-meta-letter/number sequences to remember.

Diff'rnt strokes, I guess.

paulv

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Paul van Delst	A little learning is a dangerous thing;
CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP	Drink deep, or taste not the Pierian spring;
Ph: (301)763-8000 x7274	There shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
Fax:(301)763-8545	And drinking largely sobers us again.
paul.vandelst@noaa.gov	Alexander Pope.

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