Subject: Re: idlwave help
Posted by John-David T. Smith on Thu, 25 Oct 2001 04:14:54 GMT

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Ken Mankoff wrote:
>
> Hi,
>
> I have been fooling around more with the IDLWAVE mode, but have run into a
> problem. I have searched Carstens pages, but presumably missed the answer.
>
> I would like to start using completion in the editing buffer, not just the
> shell. I think this is bound to M-TAB (or ESC-TAB). When I hit that, I get
> the following:
>
> No tag table loaded; try M-x visit-tag-table
>
> I ran this in my idwave dir:
> perl --etags @/tools/rsi/idl
>
> and it built an IDLTAGS file. I then did M-x visit-tag-table, and gave it
> the IDLTAGS file that idltags built.
>
> now, when I type "plo ESC-TAB", it fills in with "plot__fields", not
> "plot", as I would expect.
>
> Any ideas anyone?
>

Well, first of all none of this etags business is necessary... it sounds to me
like IDLWAVE isn't even running on your buffer. In regular buffers [M-Tab]
completes tag symbols, which could explain your error. In IDLWAVE mode, it
should run a special function `idlwave-complete', which knows quite a bit about
where completion is occurring. As an example, if you're inside an obj_new()
function, it completes either classnames, or Init() arguments, depending on the
locatin.

If you are in IDLWAVE mode, you'll see "IDLWAVE" in the command bar below, and a
menu of the same name. If you're not in IDLWAVE, it could be because you forgot
to add:

```
(autoload 'idlwave-mode "idlwave" "IDLWAVE Mode" t)
(autoload 'idlwave-shell "idlw-shell" "IDLWAVE Shell" t)
(setq auto-mode-alist  (cons '("\\.pro\\'" . idlwave-mode)
              auto-mode-alist))
(setq idlwave-help-directory "/usr/local/etc")
```

into your .emacs. This is all covered in the INSTALL file you'll find in the distribution. I know, who wants to read those.... with the recently released Emacs21, none of this will be necessary, since IDLWAVE comes included (currently at v4.7).

To digest your own libraries for completion and help, you should look at the IDLWAVE->Routine Info->Select Catalog Directories command. This will allow you to have completion and help on all your own routines and libraries too! It even looks up keywords in your routines' headers (if they're properly written).

Good luck,

JD

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