
Subject: Re: *MOST* useful feature!

Posted by [mvukovic](#) on Wed, 11 Dec 2002 16:04:19 GMT

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JD Smith <jdsmith@as.arizona.edu> wrote in message
news:<pan.2002.12.09.23.59.48.980292.6387@as.arizona.edu>...

> This advice written in 1985 from a tutor of Emacs may help:

>

> EMACS is the name of a text editor that everyone around here,
> sooner or later, learns how to use. (So far the longest hold-out
> has been about three months.) Learning to use EMACS is exactly the
> same as learning to ride a bicycle. It is awkward,
> counter-intuitive, frequently painful, and the documentation is no
> help at all. Bicycles are optimized for efficient use by those who
> already know how; they are not optimized for the learning
> period. Neither is EMACS. One of the most painful parts of learning
> to ride a bicycle is enduring the snotty condescension of those who
> go whizzing by no-hands, bragging about how easy it is. Be prepared
> to have that happen as you struggle with EMACS as well.

>

Strongly disagree. Like any other skill (even Word requires some skill) it requires the willingness to invest time and effort to learn in. For emacs, unlike Word, it takes about 30 minutes to go through the tutorial. With that, one will be more than competent in basic usage. Now compare that with at least two hours for one to go through a 3D CAD tutorial to achieve a same level of proficiency. It is really not that catastrophic. And actually, how much time does it take for one to become somewhat proficient in IDL? More than 30 minutes I bet.

My morning's gripe :-)

Mirko
