Subject: IDLWAVE 5.0 Released! -- idlwave.org
Posted by JD Smith on Tue, 13 May 2003 17:57:30 GMT
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IDLWAVE 5.0 -- http://idlwave.org

Announcing a major new release of IDLWAVE. Fed up with endlessly scouring for help topics in the new RSI PDF manuals? Tired of the finger gymnastics and button hunting when debugging and stepping through code? Wish you could scan files for their routine info system-wide, or avoid scanning altogether? Easily swayed by rapid-fire question-based marketing techniques? Then this release is for you.

====> New features: <====

- A new high-quality HTML-based help system, displayed in your favorite browser (or using an Emacs-local browser). It's converted directly from RSI's IDL manuals with all links preserved, and makes use of the same fast context-based lookup you already know and love, including right-clicking on completion items and routine info entries. You can use all of your favorite browser features (history, bookmarking, etc.). Windows users can even by-pass the browser and directly access the MS HTMLHelp system included with IDL.

- Introducing a new routine information catalog system: Library Catalogs. Directory-specific, portable and automatically discovered and loaded anywhere on the IDL search path, library catalogs are stored in special ".idlwave_catalog" files, and many popular libraries already ship with them. Use the provided cataloging tool to scan your own directories, tagging routines with a unique library name. Scan code libraries available system-wide once for all to use, or use a nightly cron job to re-scan rapidly changing code, and keep all routine information up to date. See http://idlwave.org/idlwave.html#CATALOGS. Library maintainers: you can scan your libraries now using the cataloging tool bundled with IDLWAVE, or available separately at http://idlwave.org/download/idlwave_catalog.

- The best thing to happen to debugging since conditional breakpoints: Electric Debug Mode, a new interface to IDLWAVE's debugging commands inspired by the Emacs Lisp E-debug mode. Whenever a breakpoint is hit (or, optionally, a run-time error is encountered), the appropriate buffers are put in Electric Debug Mode. This mode provides lightning fast stepping, shortcut-driven expression examination, breakpoint operations, and more, all using single keystrokes. Look for "*Debugging*" in the mode line, and read more about it at http://idlwave.org/idlwave.html#EDEBUG.

- Help is now available on system variable tags within the new HTML help system.

- Breakpoint glyphs (where available) are now different for both conditional and "after" breakpoints, and are displayed in a separate margin, to preserve indentation.

- Two new commands for moving among breakpoint positions in a buffer are available on C-c C-d [and C-c C-d [.

- New command for setting a breakpoint at the beginning of the enclosing routine (C-c C-d C-j).

- Completion commands can be given two prefix arguments (e.g. C-u C-u M-Tab) to prompt for a regular expression to limit the search. Great for finding routines when you only recall part of the name.

- Continuations following a routine or function call, but before any arguments, now make the reasonable assumption that you continued to get yourself more space, and default back to the basic indent.

- Filename completion for external shell commands (e.g. '$ ls').

====> Bug fixes: <=====

- History recall in the Shell for multi-line statements now avoids accumulating clutter.

- Breakpoint scanning works for breakpoints with both AFTER and CONDITION set.

- Fixed rarely seen incorrect sorting order for shadowed routines with valid filenames.

As always, find all of this and more at:

http://idlwave.org

Thanks to Bob Portmann, Dick Jackson, and most of all Carsten Dominik for help assembling and testing this release.

Happy Coding!

JD

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IDLWAVE Tip of the Month:

Eager to try the new HTML help system but don't like the idea of a separate browser window cluttering your desktop? Try "w3m" -- a fast, full-featured browser which can be run inside an Emacs window. You'll need to download and install the browser itself (http://www.w3m.org) and the Emacs mode files (http://emacs-w3m.namazu.org/). Then, simply stick:

```
(autoload 'w3m-browse-url "w3m" "Interface for w3m on Emacs." t)
(setq idlwave-help-browser-function 'w3m-browse-url)
;; Close my help window when w3m closes.
(defadvice w3m-close-window (after idlwave-close activate)
  (if (boundp 'idlwave-help-frame)
      (idlwave-help-quit)))
```

in your .emacs file, after making sure the mode files can be found on your load-path; for this you might need something like:

```
(setq load-path (append
                 `("/usr/local/share/emacs/site-lisp"
                   "/usr/local/share/emacs/site-lisp/w3m")
                 load-path))
```

at the beginning of your .emacs. Don't forget to download and install the IDLv5.6 HTML help files from http://idlwave.org, if you haven't already.

Note that you can use "M" at any time inside of w3m to load up the page in an external browser.

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