
Subject: Re: IDLDE -> IDLWAVE Newbie FAQ
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Fri, 22 Apr 2005 01:18:13 GMT
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On Thu, 21 Apr 2005 11:15:12 -0600, Sean Davis wrote:

- > Hi Folks,
- >
- > Seeing as how there is no IDLWAVE newsgroup, and how abominable (for us
- > unix/linux users) IDLDE is, I propose we compile an IDLDE to IDLWAVE
- > transition guide (or FAQ) for newbies. Such a guide would be separate from
- > the IDLWAVE documentation/tutorial, and could provide answers to questions
- > for IDL users who are used to IDLDE, and want to know how to perform
- > similar tasks in the IDLWAVE environment.
- >
- > I myself am in the process of making the transition, and stand to learn alot
- > by posing (and answering) these types of questions. ...So here is a
- > start. ...I would encourage everyone to add questions to this thread. ..I
- > will be happy to compile all of the questions and answers into a single
- > document to pass on to the folks at IDLWAVE.org (if they are interested):

That's a great idea. You might also see the troubleshooting FAQ:

<http://idlwave.org/idlwave.html#TROUBLE>

- > Here's a list of questions I have (that I don't know the answers to), in no
- > particular order.
- >
- > 1. Can one open *.prj (project) files in IDLWAVE mode?

Nope... I don't even know what's in the those files. You can have lots of fun with "speedbar", which is an Emacs way to browse files, and the contents of files (like routines) in a sidebar. I've never use the project feature; I tend to organize by directory.

- > 2. Help! I really like the "Recent Files/Projects" listing in the IDLDE
- > File Menu. Is there anything similar in IDLWAVE?

I hadn't actually seen this... if you have (X)Emacs >=21, you can get a recent files list in the File menu using the "recentf" package, like this (in your .emacs):

```
(require 'recentf)
(recentf-mode 1)
```

The list is automatically saved between Emacs sessions.

- > 3. Is there a way to see a listing of the currently defined variables, like

> in IDLDE?
>
> 4. In IDLDE, when I type ".compile myprogram", the IDLDE editor
> automatically opens up the program in the development window. Is there a
> way to do this in IDLWAVE?

The way to "visit" routines in IDL is with C-c C-v. This works with fragments of routines, and gives you a completion prompt to pick a routine. If you just want to quickly visit the source code of a routine, you can use the Help feature for that (C-c ?), and it will popup in a read-only help frame, which can be dismissed with "q".

That reminds me to make these work inside of executive commands in the shell too. That said, you really should not be typing ".compile myprogram". You should visit myprogram in a buffer, and C-c C-d C-c it (or hit the "Save and Compile" button), and watch any compilation errors get highlighted, etc.

> 5. In IDLDE, when I open up a project (*.prj) file, IDL automatically lists
> all the .pro files I previously had open in the Window Menu. Is there any
> way to have IDLWAVE "remember" which .pro files I had open in a previous
> (x)emacs session, and restore them by default when I start x(emacs).

Other than "emacs *.pro" ;) I bet it would be easy to use the list that recentf provides, and open all of those files which match *.pro. IDLWAVE leaves all notions of "project" to your organization. I personally just organize by directory.

> 6. I just want to push a button to run a program like I do with that
> blue button (or F5) in IDLDE. How do I do this?!?

Push the button that is called "Save and Compile". Or, if you have a complicated expression you keep running over and over, like:

```
my_long_routine,1,2,3,KEYWORD1=12.
```

You can save it as the "default command line" with C-c C-d C-y (or the button at the top that looks like a text entry underscore), and run with the same, so your not limited to just "running" main level routines, but instead can repeatedly execute complex expressions.

> 7. Wheww... I'm sure I have some more questions, but can't think of any
> right now.....

Keep them coming. It's always good to get the new user's perspective.

JD