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Subject: Re: IDLWave upgrading?

Posted by [Bruce Bowler](#) on Mon, 30 Jan 2006 14:09:02 GMT

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On Wed, 25 Jan 2006 09:52:20 -0700, JD Smith put fingers to keyboard and said:

> On Wed, 25 Jan 2006 08:45:09 -0500, Bruce Bowler wrote:

>

>> On Tue, 24 Jan 2006 13:04:11 -0700, JD Smith put fingers to keyboard and  
>> said:

>>

>>> On Tue, 24 Jan 2006 12:00:35 -0500, Bruce Bowler wrote:

>>>

>>>> I probably ought to direct this to JD via mail, but this way everyone  
>>>> can benefit...

>>>>

>>>> I'm currently running IDLwave 5.0 and IDL 6.1. I think it's time to  
>>>> upgrade IDLwave to 5.6.

>>>>

>>>> What are the "gotchas" that I ought to look out for? Should I  
>>>> uninstall 5.0 before I try and install 5.6?

>>>

>>> The only real gotcha is if your old IDLWAVE is still installed, and  
>>> Emacs find that one first. This is easy to see, since the version is  
>>> printed when IDLWAVE starts up (also, C-h m will show the version).  
>>> Normally, this is not a problem, if you are installing to the same  
>>> place, it will just overwrite the old files with the new, and you  
>>> should be good to go. You'll probably also need to grab and install  
>>> the HTML help relevant for IDL 6.1.

>>>

>>> That said, you could just wait for IDLWAVE 6.0, due out "any time now",  
>>> which interfaces with the new IDL Assistant, and makes downloading any  
>>> help unnecessary (since it comes bundled with IDL now). Lots of other  
>>> nice improvements as well.

>>>

>>> JD

>>

>> Done, and as predicted, painless...

>>

>> One question. One of my motivations for upgrading was that  
>> IDLWAVE>>Documentation>>Launch IDL Help  
>> didn't.

>>

>> I had assumed that it was because I was on IDL 6.1 and IDLWave 5.0 and  
>> there was a "version mismatch" going on. Even after upgrading, it still  
>> doesn't. Context sensitive help works, but Launch IDL help doesn't  
>> work. Any clues about how to make it work would be most appreciated.

>  
> All that menu does, with IDLWAVE 5.6 and IDL 6.1 is attempt to call the  
> command "idlhelp", which by default is defined by the IDL installers to  
> launch the PDF version of the help (which I find somewhat useless). If  
> such a command is not on the program search path available to Emacs, it  
> won't launch. With IDLWAVE 6.0, that command will launch or raise the IDL  
> Assistant, which is where context help goes by default as well, and so  
> will be much more useful. A simple way to get the context HTML help in  
> your version is just say M-? on any valid routine/statement/etc.  
>  
> JD

```
[bcb@modis bin]$ which idlhelp  
/usr/local/bin/idlhelp
```

So the shell knows how to find it. Is there something I can type within  
emacs that might reveal clues as to why it's not being launched?

```
--  
+-----+-----+  
Bruce Bowler      | Vote for the man who promises least, he'll be the  
1.207.633.9600    | least disappointing. - Bernard Baruch  
bbowler@bigelow.org |  
+-----+-----+
```

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