On Wed, 01 Feb 2006 08:46:15 -0500, Bruce Bowler wrote:

> On Tue, 31 Jan 2006 17:09:27 -0700, JD Smith put fingers to keyboard and
> said:
>
>> On Tue, 31 Jan 2006 10:35:30 -0500, Bruce Bowler wrote:
>>
>>> On Mon, 30 Jan 2006 14:08:51 -0700, JD Smith put fingers to keyboard and
>>> said:
>>>
>>>
>>>> > [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?
>>>>
>>>>
>>>> Just attempt to run the command, and look in the *Messages* buffer for
>>>> any error message.
>>>>
>>>> JD
>>>
>>> No errors at all... Is there a target date for IDLWave 6?
>>
>> Waiting on a few odds and ends, but it should be within a few weeks.
>> Emacs may not have the same path as your shell (as is common in OSX, for
>> example). Try starting emacs from the shell directly, and see if that
>> helps. You can M-: (getenv "PATH") to see what emacs things the execute
>> path is.

>
> Doing that shows that /usr/local/bin is on the path that emacs sees.
> Probably not a surprise, but if I do M-! idlhelp, it works.

OK, I checked and the idlhelp script in IDL 6.2 runs IDL_ASSISTANT in
the background, which means that it cannot be started from IDLWAVE in
the old way (since there is no shell running to make it a background
task it starts and immediately exits). Older versions of IDL come
with an idlhelp script which works fine (well, other than giving you
less than useful PDF help).

Since IDL Assistant comes with v6.2, and runs best under IDLWAVE 6.0
anyway, I think we can just let that go, since the menu item you

mention will work fine in that case (it uses the idl_assistant script,
not idlhelp).

JD