
Subject: Re: Continuing Linux Education
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Mon, 06 Feb 2006 17:16:35 GMT
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:On Sat, 04 Feb 2006 11:57:10 -0800, Peter Albert wrote:

> Hi David,
>
> I had the same problem with IDL not being found in Emacs/IDLWAVE, although
> calling idl from the shell worked just fine. This was because idl was set
> as an alias somewhere, pointing to the correct executable, while its path
> was not in the !PATH environment variable. IDLWAVE doesn't know about the
> alias and hence can't execute IDL.
>
> You can check this with just calling
>
> \$ alias | grep -i idl
>
> If IDL pops up, it is set as an alias. You can either look for where this
> is done and comment the appropriate line out, or you add a line like
>
> unalias idl
>
> in your bashrc. Then you add the IDL path to \$PATH as
>
> setenv PATH \$PATH:/usr/local/rsi/idl/idl_6.2/bin
>
> or similar.
>
> If I remember correctly, an alternative way is to explicitly tell IDLWAVE
> where IDL is located. I can't remember where in the vast desert of Emacs
> configuration I once stumbled over the appropriate entry, but I know it's
> there.

This is a common issue, which it sounds like you've solved in the correct way. Emacs doesn't know about aliases, it just looks for the command "idl" on the search path. You can either:

- 1) make sure there is such a command (in /usr/local/bin/ or where ever; if you say "yes" at the end of the IDL install it will build links there for you), or
- 2) explicitly configure idlwave-shell-explicit-file-name: click IDLWAVE->Customize->Browse Full IDLWAVE group, browse to IDLWAVE external programs, and click "Idlwave Shell Explicit Filename") to set the full path to your idl runnable (e.g. "/usr/local/rsi/idl/bin/idl").

As far as the tutorial, the IDLWAVE which is bundled with Emacs is ancient: 4.7 or something. Almost 4 years old (which is about how old the current Emacs is, sadly). It probably even pre-dates the tutorial, and is missing many features. You should upgrade your IDLWAVE; see idlwave.org. My recommendation is to wait for the IDLWAVE 6.0 announcement which will be going out soon, and upgrade then. Then the HTML help RSI supplies with your IDL 6.2 will work "out of the box", and you won't need to do anything more to configure your context help. By the way, Emacs 22, when it ships, should have a nice modern version of IDLWAVE, so the need to upgrade will be much reduced.

JD
