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Subject: Writing to the IDLde

Posted by [news.verizon.net](mailto:news.verizon.net) on Tue, 13 Feb 2007 20:07:31 GMT

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This message will reveal me as a dinosaur, but I am still trying to maintain programs that display output to a terminal, continuously overwriting the previous result. For example, the following little program will continuously display the number of seconds since the program started:

```
pro test, x
cr = string(13b)
for i=0,50 do begin
  wait,1
  print,i,cr,f='($,a,a)'
endfor
end
```

However, this program only works at a Unix terminal: in the IDLDE (Mac or Unix), the carriage return can't erase the previous text. Perhaps, there is some combination of carriage return, linefeed and/or newline suppression format that works with the IDLde but I couldn't locate it.

Of course, I could write the output to a text widget, and update/overwrite using `WIDGET_CONTROL` as needed. But this would require fairly major changes of existing code.

A possibly related question is whether it is possible to display text to the IDLde using the `/MORE` option. At a terminal, one can use `openw,lun,filepath(/terminal),/more,/get_lun`. I had always assumed that this wasn't possible to do this in the IDLde, but compiling with the `-t` option does give `/MORE` output.

Thanks, --Wayne

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