
Subject: Re: New IDLDE

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Thu, 08 Mar 2007 18:40:16 GMT

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On Thu, 08 Mar 2007 09:43:35 -0800, Matt wrote:

> On Mar 8, 10:20 am, Kenneth Bowman <k-bow...@tamu.edu> wrote:
>> Is Eclipse in the future for IDL?
>>
>> There's a story at the Reg titled "Developers tell Eclipse why it
>> sucks". ;-)
>
>
> Every time I hear IDL will be including eclipse in the next release I
> freak out about not being able to use emacs and idlwave anymore. Does
> anyone know if it will still be supported on linux?

IDLWAVE isn't going anywhere. If anything, ITTVIS has been far more supportive of it over the last years. In fact, the fancy new help interface, which allows you to pull up context help in the Assistant from any IDL version starting with 6.1, is courtesy of the `idl_catalog.xml` file now distributed with IDL, and built directly by their documentation group. IDLWAVE parses this to learn system calling syntax, location of help topics, etc. In the old days, we had to scan PDF and HTML versions of their docs to discover this information, using a giant and very difficult to maintain Perl script. Long time IDLWAVE users might even remember the text-based help converted from PDF, which we augmented by splicing in the "What's New" information when v5.5 was released without updated documentation -- for a while, IDLWAVE had the only up to date manuals for IDL!

There may be less motivation to use IDLWAVE for new users, given how awful the current Motif IDLDE is, but I don't expect any other changes.

Those of you looking to get started with IDLWAVE, I strong recommend getting hold of a recent copy of Emacs 22 (still in pre-release, but very stable and feature-packed). IDLWAVE is up to date and optimized for this version. One could speculate Emacs 22 will be released in the next months, but then again, it's been "months away" for several years now...

JD
