In article <9OCT199200575590@stars.gsfc.nasa.gov>, landsman@stars.gsfc.nasa.gov (Wayne Landsman (301)-286-3625) writes:
|>   (2) The widget help has been rewritten in C so that one can return
|> to the IDL prompt without losing the help display.   One can have an
|> IDL help icon working throughout the session.

Wow! Does this mean that there's the possibility that ALL widgets could operate
this way, i.e., allowing simultaneous input from both the widget and the
command line? Possibly the C code could be made available so others could
make their own widgets operate this way. I suppose, though, that this forces
one to work with the x toolkit rather than the IDL widgets.

More generally, do others want simultaneous input to widgets and the command
line like I do? I usually don't want to build all the capabilities I want into
a widget and usually avoid using them. Instead, I use the normal command input
with display to windows, with only brief work with widgets to perform specific
tasks. No doubt others who are doing production runs or many similar tasks
operate more with widgets. One way to satisfy me would be to have a command
line widget, which could be part of any larger widget. I have tried versions
of such a widget using an editable text widget with commands executed using the
execute function. However, the output is misdirected and variables are not
available unless they are in common or are created beforehand. Possibly the
new debugger for X windows will be a partial solution. In summary, I have two
points for discussion.

 1) I wonder whether others want simultaneous operation with a widget
    and the command line.
 2) I suggest that creating a command-line widget would satisfy my needs.

Fred
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