Subject: Re: IDL 7.0 Preview Review
Posted by JD Smith on Fri, 16 Nov 2007 22:42:53 GMT
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>> I'm going to have a look at the new IDL Workshop. God knows
>> I've tried to learn EMACS for the last 4-5 months and I *still*
>> have to look up how to do a Search-and-Replace every time I
>> want to do it. My fingers just don't want to learn that dance.
>> The IDL Workshop may be just what the doctor ordered. At least
>> I hope so.
>
> Like I said before, I think the learning curve on the Workbench will
> be easier on new users. I think debugging is more intuitive and
> powerful on the Workbench as well. IDL-Wave probably has more features
> as well as leveraging all the native Emacs features.

As no doubt the Workbench/IDLWAVE comparisons will soon flood the
airwaves, everyone should keep in mind a fundamental difference between
the two. One is hooked into IDL at a low level, the other interacts with
IDL only as a "user". For instance, to query IDL for the current
breakpoints, the Workbench no doubt calls some double-secret
function hidden well out of reach above the interpreter stack. IDLWAVE
says "IDL> help,/BREAKPOINTS", and dutifully sets about parsing the often
mangled results, mindful of the changes in syntax which have slowly
percolated through the years. That said, it's still pretty usable for me!

JD

P.S. Look for IDLWAVE 6.2 soon.