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Subject: Re: idlwave: spaces round = and other operators  
Posted by [Benjamin Hornberger](#) on Fri, 01 Feb 2008 21:18:03 GMT  
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JD Smith wrote:

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> On Feb 1, 1:29 pm, Benjamin Hornberger
> <hornb...@xray1.physics.sunysb.edu> wrote:
>> JD Smith wrote:
>>> On Jan 31, 6:36 pm, Benjamin Hornberger
>>> <hornb...@xray1.physics.sunysb.edu> wrote:
>>>> JD Smith wrote:
>>>> >> in my .emacs (of course with paths adjusted to my system), but it didn't
>>>> >> help. It did get rid of the "HTML help location not found: try setting
>>>> >> `idlwave-system-directory' and/or `idlwave-html-help-location'." error
>>>> >> message when startingIDLWAVEbut didn't get rid of the "spaces around
>>>> >> operators" problem.
>>>> > Do you see the error message I mentioned?
>>>> I did see the message "HTML help location not found: try setting
>>>> >> `idlwave-system-directory' and/or `idlwave-html-help-location'.".
>>>> That I could get rid of with the hints you mentioned (on theidlwave
>>>> website), but it didn't solve the original problem
>>>> > Try M-: (lengthidlwave-
>>>> > routines) [RET]. Should be around 2500.
>>>> 0 (#o0, #x0)
>>>> What should I do about that?
>>> You need to figure out why it's not finding and translating the
>>> idl_catalog.xml file which is supposed to live in idl/help/
>>> online_help.
>>> Is this IDL 7? You didn't say. There's been some monkeying around
>>> with the location of help files, and the entire help system which
>>> IDLWAVEdoesn't know about; see this tech tip:
>>> http://www.ittvis.com/services/techtip.asp?ttid=4323
>>> If you are using IDL 7, and don't want to go that whole route, you
>>> could try creating a link or copy of idl_catalog.xml in help/
>>> online_help (the moved it just to help/). I may release a version
>>> which at least looks for the catalog file there.
>> Yes, this is IDL 7.0, but I believe I had the problem with 6.4 as well
>> (after installing Emacs 22).
>>
>> I had seen the tech tip and did already copy the online_help directory
>> (didn't help).
>>
>> Anyway, do you think not finding the help system is responsible for the
>> problem with space around operators? Doesn't sound like it's related to
>> me. I have to say I never used the IDL help within Emacs/IDLWAVE
>> (probably would be a good thing to learn), I always have the IDL help
>> browser open. At the moment I am mostly concerned about the "spaces
>> around operators" problem.
```

>  
> Yes, that's the problem, and it should be IDL7-specific. IDLWAVE  
> specifically checks to avoid adding space around the '=' in keywords,  
> and to do so it brings the routine info up to date. Without routine  
> info, lots of other things won't work well either. You can also turn  
> keyword padding back on to get around this, but you're better off  
> simply copying idl\_catalog.xml over to the old location (idl/help/  
> online\_help), and restarting emacs. This won't change anything about  
> the help system.  
>  
> JD

I see. Unfortunately, still no luck. I did copy the entire directory  
C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL64\help\online\_help (which includes  
idl\_catalog.xml) to the corresponding IDL70 path (I have both installed)  
as described in the ITTVIS tech tip . I do have the following two  
entries in my .emacs:

```
;; The location of the IDL library directories, both standard, and your  
own.  
;; note that the initial "+" expands the path recursively  
(setq idlwave-library-path  
      '("+C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL70\lib" "+C:\path\to\more\idl_stuff"))
```

```
;; location of the IDL system directory (try "print,!DIR")  
(setq idlwave-system-directory "C:\Program Files\ITT\IDL70")
```

It still doesn't work (still get the beep and "wrong type argument:  
consp, nil" when typing "a="). I replaced IDL70 in both cases with  
IDL64, and it still doesn't work.

IDLWAVE reports "cannot locate IDL assistant, enabling default browser"  
when loading a .pro file in Emacs (in both cases, with IDL70 and IDL64  
in the .emacs).

Sorry ... any further clues?

Thanks,  
Benjamin

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