
Subject: Re: Readline and/or easy command line history access

Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Mon, 27 Apr 2009 02:56:08 GMT

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Keflavich wrote:

> Hi IDL folks,
> I've asked a few experts but never received a satisfactory
> answer. Is there any sort of readline support in IDL more advanced
> than a simple command history? I can hit 'up' at the command line to
> retrieve old commands, but this is tedious and sometimes difficult in
> large interactive sessions. On the bash command line and in GNU-
> readline supporting interfaces (e.g. python), it's possible to do
> things like type the first few characters of a command and use 'up' to
> scroll through commands in history that begin with those characters.
>
> On the bash command line, <control-r>, or 'reverse-i-search', is
> approximately equivalent.
>
> The problem is that I use a lot of commands that are rather long -
> e.g. plot commands to subsets of structs - and would prefer not to
> retype them too often. Also, I often use multi-line commands for
> procedures and functions that require a lot of keyword inputs, and
> those are very painful to scroll through.

There was this work by Allan Whiteford:

<http://bit.ly/Azxu7>

I think it should be possible to make your own IDL command line now in IDL 6.4+ using Callable IDL. Making something analogous to IPython for Python would be very useful.

Mike

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www.michaelgalloy.com

Associate Research Scientist

Tech-X Corporation
