
Subject: Ringing the bell?

Posted by [Harvey Rarback](#) on Wed, 28 Feb 2001 06:33:13 GMT

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Folks,

I am writing a turnkey interactive widget application in IDL 5.3 on an OpenVMS platform. I start command line IDL in a VMS batch queue using an IDL batch file so that the user never sees the IDL prompt. The only thing that doesn't work with this scheme is that I haven't figured out a way to ring the bell when the user does something wrong. One workaround is to start an iconized terminal from the batch queue and send IDL's output there. Then

```
print, string(7b), format = '(a,$)'
```

will ring the bell, but this introduces an extra terminal window and seems awfully tacky.

Sometime back, IDL seems to have acquired the undocumented built-in 'beep' which also doesn't work if there is no terminal to send the output to.

I did a little experiment on IDL 5.4 running on a Tru64 Unix platform. Here the command line IDL rings the bell with the print statement, but seems to ring the bell for the beep command only when I *exit* IDL. For idlde, the beep command works, but the print statement just outputs a funky degree-like symbol.

Can anyone shed some light on the mysterious 'beep' procedure and help me out in ringing the bell?

Many thanks.

--Harvey
