Subject: Adobe 7.0 in IDL
Posted by Steve.Morris on Wed, 19 Oct 2005 14:08:53 GMT

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Cheers all!

I use idl 6.0 on my suse linux. I have been updating my linux and got
the adobe 7.0 that is not working anymore with the -supernasty!- idl
online help (I know the topic has been already faced time ago)

So I was thinking this as a good excuse to migrate to some sort of more
clever way of using the online help, idlwave or whatever would be good.

I'm using emacs and I'm quite sure it already has idlwave features in
it (ex: I call idl from it by typing ctrl-C-S) but I'm anable to see
the online help provided with idlwave. What should I do? I have tried
to Alt-X-idlwave- but then I don't have any help (only
idlwave-hard-tab) as I would expect. What do I have to do in order to
see it (if this is the right way of doing... ?!?)

I have also downloaded the html online-help (from idlwave.org) and add
the following lines in .emacs

(setq idlwave-html-help-location
"/home/myusername/IDLWAVE/idl_html_help/")
(setq idlwave-help-browser-function 'firefox-browse-url)

but is seems not to work...

Any suggestion and/or help?

Switching to another topic, I come across to this higly interesting
message :

"just find the file idl.chm in a Windows distribution and copy
that file to some convenient location on your Linux box. Install xCHM,
if you don't have it already, and viola! you're reading a Windows Help
file on Linux."

I have downloaded and installed idl6.2 for windows and searched for
idl.chm, but unable to find it anymore!!! Is this another nice joke
from IDL people? Or what? Should I rather use another file and if so,
which one?

Thanks in advance everyone!
S.

Subject: Re: Adobe 7.0 in IDL
Posted by JD Smith on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 16:42:12 GMT

On Mon, 24 Oct 2005 04:46:09 -0700, Steve.Morris wrote:

>> You probably have an old IDLWAVE bundled with emacs from long ago (the
>> last real Emacs release was around 2001, I believe). You'll need to
>> update your install (see idlwave.org) to use the new HTML help. Once
>> that is done, I think you need to say just
>> "/home/myusername/IDLWAVE". It automatically appends idl_html_help.
>> The default location is /usr/local/etc, so you could remove that
>> customization and just place the html help directory there as well.
>
> I have followed the instruction and now I get idlwave-help-.... from
> my emacs. However I feel still a dummy, cos I haven't yet manage to
> call help for a certain command.
> In acrobat I was doing ex ?fltarr .... what should I do here in emacs?
> I have tried to select idlwave-help-menu, but nothing happens :(

menu IDLWAVE->Documentation->Info

then visit topic "The IDLWAVE Major Mode"->Online Help. This will
tell you what you need to know. Briefly, IDLWAVE gives context based
help. Just hit M-? with the cursor in a variety of places
(functions/keywords/system variables/etc.) and you'll be queued up
instantly. Also available from context help or completion (just right
click anything blue).

I should probably remove the "Launch IDL Help" menu item, or change it
to launch the home page of the IDL HTML help. It was created when
IDL's help system was a papyrus parchment roll with charcoal drawings.

JD

Subject: Re: Adobe 7.0 in IDL
Posted by Steve.Morris on Mon, 24 Oct 2005 21:46:37 GMT

I'm not actually quite sure I'm doing things properly :((

I have completion only if I open IDL in my emacs,i.e. I have to hit C-c
C-s and then for a given command in the IDL command line I get a
completion or a list of possible completion. But not in the emacs file
right away. Also, nothing happens when I hit M-? or C-c ? (is
posssible because in my keybord ? is called with shift-+
combination???)

In any case, if from the idl command line (open by C-c C-s I right
click on one of the possible combination, nothing happens but I get the
following message Wrong type argument: listp, firefox-browse-url).
However, if in .emacs I set the following way
(setq idlwave-help-browser-function 'w3m-browse-url)
a new emacs window pop-up, with the title *IDLWAVE Help*, but nothing
is displayed and the message Wrong type argument: listp, w3m-browse-url
 still appear.

I feel really like a stupid but I fear I'm missing something very
basic, indeed.... :(

Here is my .emacs as it looks right now

(setq load-path (cons "/usr/local/share/emacs/site-lisp" load-path))
  (setq idlwave-help-directory "/usr/local/etc")

  (autoload 'idlwave-mode "idlwave" "IDLWAVE Mode" t)
  (autoload 'idlwave-shell "idlw-shell" "IDLWAVE Shell" t)
  (setq auto-mode-alist
  (cons '("\\.pro\\'" . idlwave-mode) auto-mode-alist))
  (setq idlwave-help-browser-function 'w3m-browse-url)

Subject: Re: Adobe 7.0 in IDL
Posted by JD Smith on Tue, 25 Oct 2005 00:42:57 GMT
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On Mon, 24 Oct 2005 14:46:37 -0700, Steve.Morris wrote:

> I'm not actually quite sure I'm doing things properly :((
>
> I have completion only if I open IDL in my emacs,i.e. I have to hit C-c
> C-s and then for a given command in the IDL command line I get a
> completion or a list of possible completion. But not in the emacs file
> right away. Also, nothing happens when I hit M-? or C-c ? (is
> posssible because in my keybord ? is called with shift-+
> combination???)
>
> In any case, if from the idl command line (open by C-c C-s I right
> click on one of the possible combination, nothing happens but I get the
> following message Wrong type argument: listp, firefox-browse-url).
> However, if in .emacs I set the following way
> (setq idlwave-help-browser-function 'w3m-browse-url)
> a new emacs window pop-up, with the title *IDLWAVE Help*, but nothing
> is displayed and the message Wrong type argument: listp, w3m-browse-url

> still appear.
>
> I feel really like a stupid but I fear I'm missing something very
> basic, indeed.... :(
>
> Here is my .emacs as it looks right now

Having trouble following you here. Try this. Open a file named foo.pro.
In it, type:

a=convol(

and with the cursor after the "(", hit M-?. You should have a browser
popup to the CONVOL page, or a message about problems Emacs is having
opening a browser. Have you actually installed w3m? It doesn't come with
Emacs by default (and requires an external command-line tool). You
can configure your default browser like M-x customize [RET]
browse-url-browser-function [RET] and try the various methods until you
find one which works. Then just "save for future sessions" and you should
be good to go.

JD

Subject: Re: Adobe 7.0 in IDL
Posted by Steve.Morris on Tue, 25 Oct 2005 13:25:22 GMT

> Having trouble following you here. Try this. Open a file named foo.pro.
> In it, type:
>
> a=convol(
>
> and with the cursor after the "(", hit M-?. You should have a browser
> popup to the CONVOL page, or a message about problems Emacs is having
> opening a browser.

Yep, an Emacs window pop-up, but no help written. Just get white screen
and a message about Emacs having problems in opening :
Wrong type argument: listp, w3m-browse-url

> Have you actually installed w3m?
w3m is installed, but maybe is somehow not in my emacs?
If in the .emacs file I try to put firefox or mozilla, than is even
worse and neiher the white screen pop-up

> can configure your default browser like M-x customize [RET]

> browse-url-browser-function [RET] and try the various methods until you
> find one which works. Then just "save for future sessions" and you should
> be good to go.
These are the possible completation when hitting M-x browse-url-

browse-url-at-mouse   browse-url-at-point
browse-url-cci   browse-url-default-windows-browser
browse-url-generic   browse-url-gnome-moz
browse-url-grail   browse-url-iximosaic
browse-url-kde   browse-url-lynx-emacs
browse-url-lynx-xterm   browse-url-mail
browse-url-mmm   browse-url-mosaic
browse-url-netscape   browse-url-netscape-reload
browse-url-of-buffer   browse-url-of-dired-file
browse-url-of-file   browse-url-of-region
browse-url-w3   browse-url-w3-gnudoit

thanks again!

Subject: Re: Adobe 7.0 in IDL
Posted by savoie on Tue, 25 Oct 2005 15:06:45 GMT
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Steve.Morris@libero.it writes:

> Yep, an Emacs window pop-up, but no help written. Just get white screen
> and a message about Emacs having problems in opening :
> Wrong type argument: listp, w3m-browse-url
>
>
>> Have you actually installed w3m?
> w3m is installed, but maybe is somehow not in my emacs?

> If in the .emacs file I try to put firefox or mozilla, than is even
> worse and neiher the white screen pop-up

You should make sure your emacs is connected to your desired browser first.

If you want to use w3m (which I prefer since you never leave emacs), make
sure it's configured correctly.

Try the command: M-x browse-url <enter: http://google.com> and see
what happends first.

Do you get the google homepage? Inside an emacs window, or in a separate

browser?

If you don't get either, you've not configured emacs correctly. This needs
to be done before you can get the idlwave help system as it uses URLs for
its help pages.

Hope this helps.

Matt

Check the emacs manual.

AC.28.1 Following URLs

M-x browse-url RET url RET
    Load a URL into a Web browser.

The Browse-URL package provides facilities for following URLs specifying
links on the World Wide Web. Usually this works by invoking a web browser,
but you can, for instance, arrange to invoke compose-mail from `mailto:'
URLs.

The general way to use this feature is to type M-x browse-url, which displays
a specified URL. If point is located near a plausible URL, that URL is used
as the default. Other commands are available which you might like to bind to
keys, such as browse-url-at-point and browse-url-at-mouse.

You can customize Browse-URL's behavior via various options in the browse-url
Customize group, particularly browse-url-browser-function. You can invoke
actions dependent on the type of URL by defining browse-url-browser-function
as an association list. The package's commentary available via C-h p provides
more information. Packages with facilities for following URLs should always
go through Browse-URL, so that the customization options for Browse-URL will
affect all browsing in Emacs.

Subject: Re: Adobe 7.0 in IDL
Posted by Steve.Morris on Tue, 25 Oct 2005 16:18:17 GMT
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> Try the command: M-x browse-url <enter: http://google.com> and see
> what happends first.
Thanks, this is now set :))
I have gone to customization and then set up lynx-emacs in Browse Url

Browser Function.

Actually there's a bunch of other browser, but I didn't find w3m.
Anyhow it works perfectly fine with lynx (alternatively I have tried
with mozilla, just to ensure thing work)

> If you don't get either, you've not configured emacs correctly. This needs
> to be done before you can get the idlwave help system as it uses URLs for
> its help pages.

But still, I cannot manage to open the online help!
If I put the following line in my .emacs

(setq idlwave-help-browser-function 'lynx-emacs-browse-url)

or this one
(setq idlwave-help-browser-function 'lynx-browse-url)

then I get the usuall Wrong type argument: listp, lynx-emacs-browse-url

(alternatively I have tried with   setq idlwave-help-browser-function
'mozilla-emacs-browse-url   but it's always the same story)

The only way to have a pop up at the help call is to have
(setq idlwave-help-browser-function 'w3m-emacs-browse-url)

but then nothing is seen (and w3m is not displayed in the possible
browser when settin up Browse Url Browse Function... there is emacs w3
that I wonder what's and I didn't manage to make it work) :(

What's wrong??? Say I want use lynx what should I do?

Subject: Re: Adobe 7.0 in IDL
Posted by savoie on Tue, 25 Oct 2005 20:00:29 GMT
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Steve.Morris@libero.it writes:

>> Try the command: M-x browse-url <enter: http://google.com> and see
>> what happends first.
> Thanks, this is now set :))

Good. That's got to work before anything else will.

> I have gone to customization and then set up lynx-emacs in Browse Url
> Browser Function.

> But still, I cannot manage to open the online help!
> If I put the following line in my .emacs

> (setq idlwave-help-browser-function 'lynx-emacs-browse-url)
> or this one
> (setq idlwave-help-browser-function 'lynx-browse-url)

> What's wrong??? Say I want use lynx what should I do?

O.k. I'm starting to grasp at straws. But try customizing the variable,
rather than setq'ing it.

M-x customize-variable <ret> idlwave-help-browser-function <ret>

try "browse-url-firefox" in the value, then use the state button to save it.

If this works, and brings up the help menu when doing idlwave-context-help
(also known as: "M-?"). in a firefox browser, we have the idlwave help stuff
setup correctly. Then you'll just have to try to get the lynx command

You say that you got the browse-url to work with lynx-emacs, so I'm going to
guess (I don't have lynx).

that if you customize the idlwave-help-browser-function to be
"browse-url-lynx-emacs"

You should get the behavior you are looking for.

Let's see what happens.

Matt

--
Matthew Savoie - Scientific Programmer
National Snow and Ice Data Center
(303) 735-0785   http://nsidc.org

Subject: Re: Adobe 7.0 in IDL
Posted by JD Smith on Tue, 25 Oct 2005 21:34:03 GMT
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On Tue, 25 Oct 2005 09:18:17 -0700, Steve.Morris wrote:

>
>> Try the command: M-x browse-url <enter: http://google.com> and see what
>> happends first.
> Thanks, this is now set :))
> I have gone to customization and then set up lynx-emacs in Browse Url
> Browser Function.
>
> Actually there's a bunch of other browser, but I didn't find w3m. Anyhow
> it works perfectly fine with lynx (alternatively I have tried with
> mozilla, just to ensure thing work)
>
>
>> If you don't get either, you've not configured emacs correctly. This
>> needs to be done before you can get the idlwave help system as it uses
>> URLs for its help pages.
>
> But still, I cannot manage to open the online help! If I put the following
> line in my .emacs
>
> (setq idlwave-help-browser-function 'lynx-emacs-browse-url)
>
> or this one
> (setq idlwave-help-browser-function 'lynx-browse-url)
>
> then I get the usuall Wrong type argument: listp, lynx-emacs-browse-url
>
> (alternatively I have tried with   setq idlwave-help-browser-function
> 'mozilla-emacs-browse-url   but it's always the same story)
>
> The only way to have a pop up at the help call is to have (setq
> idlwave-help-browser-function 'w3m-emacs-browse-url)
>
> but then nothing is seen (and w3m is not displayed in the possible browser
> when settin up Browse Url Browse Function... there is emacs w3 that I
> wonder what's and I didn't manage to make it work) :(
>
> What's wrong??? Say I want use lynx what should I do?

I'm not sure where you are getting these function names, but they're
not correct. If you set it up with customize to work, and say "save
for future sessions" this should be a non-issue. Just remove the
help-browser-function line from your .emacs, and IDLWAVE will default
to the system-wide browser. You only really need this variable if you
want different browsers in IDLWAVE vs. other Emacs stuff.

JD

Subject: Re: Adobe 7.0 in IDL
Posted by Steve.Morris on Wed, 26 Oct 2005 07:37:19 GMT

Gotcha!!

I just customize to work with lynx and then get rid of
(setq idlwave-help-browser-function 'lynx-browse-url)

in my .emacs.

Now it works like a charm :)

Thanks so much guy! It's a pleasure post problem in this group :)

Subject: Re: Adobe 7.0 in IDL
Posted by Richard French on Sat, 12 Nov 2005 01:36:19 GMT

OK, I have finally decided to bite the bullet and get idlwave running. The
first problem is that I have used 'vi' all my computing life, and I'm having
a hard time remembering all the commands for emacs. The second problem is
that on my Mac, when I fire up emacs in an xterm, it does not have any
widgets that I can use to learn the system, so I have decided to install
Xemacs instead (version 21.4.9). I figured I could learn emacs this way, and
then go back to plain emacs if necessary, once I learned the ropes.

So far so good. I have confirmed (I think) that the IDLWAVE package has been
installed. However, when I try to load the tutorial.pro routine to see the
magic that IDLWAVE can do, I get an error message:

File mode specification error: (void-variable browse-url-browser-function)

And the there is no hint that it has heard of IDLWAVE mode.

Here is my
~/.xemacs/init.el

```
127 rfrench@telesto> cat init.el
  (setq load-path (cons "/usr/local/share/emacs/site-lisp" load-path))

  (autoload 'idlwave-mode "idlwave" "IDLWAVE Mode" t)
  (autoload 'idlwave-shell "idlw-shell" "IDLWAVE Shell" t)
  (setq auto-mode-alist
   (cons '("\\.pro\\'" . idlwave-mode) auto-mode-alist))
```

I'd be very grateful if someone could tell me how to get xemacs to recognize that this file is an IDL program and get into the proper mode for it.

Many thanks!

Dick French

PS I am running OSX10.4.3 and X11 1.1 - Xfree86 4.4.0 on a PowerBook G4