
Subject: Re: IDLWave upgrading?

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Tue, 24 Jan 2006 20:04:11 GMT

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On Tue, 24 Jan 2006 12:00:35 -0500, Bruce Bowler wrote:

- > I probably ought to direct this to JD via mail, but this way everyone can
- > benefit...
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- > I'm currently running IDLwave 5.0 and IDL 6.1. I think it's time to
- > upgrade IDLwave to 5.6.
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- > What are the "gotchas" that I ought to look out for? Should I uninstall
- > 5.0 before I try and install 5.6?

The only real gotcha is if your old IDLWAVE is still installed, and Emacs find that one first. This is easy to see, since the version is printed when IDLWAVE starts up (also, C-h m will show the version). Normally, this is not a problem, if you are installing to the same place, it will just overwrite the old files with the new, and you should be good to go. You'll probably also need to grab and install the HTML help relevant for IDL 6.1.

That said, you could just wait for IDLWAVE 6.0, due out "any time now", which interfaces with the new IDL Assistant, and makes downloading any help unnecessary (since it comes bundled with IDL now). Lots of other nice improvements as well.

JD

Subject: Re: IDLWave upgrading?

Posted by [Bruce Bowler](#) on Wed, 25 Jan 2006 13:45:09 GMT

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On Tue, 24 Jan 2006 13:04:11 -0700, JD Smith put fingers to keyboard and said:

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Done, and as predicted, painless...

One question. One of my motivations for upgrading was that
IDLWAVE>>Documentation>>Launch IDL Help
didn't.

I had assumed that it was because I was on IDL 6.1 and IDLWave 5.0 and
there was a "version mismatch" going on. Even after upgrading, it still
doesn't. Context sensitive help works, but Launch IDL help doesn't work.
Any clues about how to make it work would be most appreciated.

Bruce

--
+-----+-----+
Bruce Bowler | To be great is to be misunderstood. - Ralph Waldo
1.207.633.9600 | Emerson
bbowler@bigelow.org |
+-----+-----+

Subject: Re: IDLWave upgrading?
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Wed, 25 Jan 2006 16:52:20 GMT
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On Wed, 25 Jan 2006 08:45:09 -0500, Bruce Bowler wrote:

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All that menu does, with IDLWAVE 5.6 and IDL 6.1 is attempt to call the command "idlhelp", which by default is defined by the IDL installers to launch the PDF version of the help (which I find somewhat useless). If such a command is not on the program search path available to Emacs, it won't launch. With IDLWAVE 6.0, that command will launch or raise the IDL Assistant, which is where context help goes by default as well, and so will be much more useful. A simple way to get the context HTML help in your version is just say M-? on any valid routine/statement/etc.

JD

Subject: Re: IDLWave upgrading?

Posted by [Bruce Bowler](#) on Mon, 30 Jan 2006 14:09:02 GMT

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```
[bcb@modis bin]$ which idlhelp  
/usr/local/bin/idlhelp
```

So the shell knows how to find it. Is there something I can type within
emacs that might reveal clues as to why it's not being launched?

```
--  
+-----+-----+  
Bruce Bowler      | Vote for the man who promises least, he'll be the  
1.207.633.9600    | least disappointing. - Bernard Baruch  
bbowler@bigelow.org |  
+-----+-----+
```
