
Subject: IDLWave upgrading?

Posted by [Bruce Bowler](#) on Tue, 24 Jan 2006 17:00:35 GMT

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I probably ought to direct this to JD via mail, but this way everyone can benefit...

I'm currently running IDLwave 5.0 and IDL 6.1. I think it's time to upgrade IDLwave to 5.6.

What are the "gotchas" that I ought to look out for? Should I uninstall 5.0 before I try and install 5.6?

Bruce

--

+-----+
Bruce Bowler | Blessed are the young, for they shall inherit the
1.207.633.9600 | national debt. - Herbert Hoover
bbowler@bigelow.org |
+-----+

Subject: Re: IDLWave upgrading?

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Mon, 30 Jan 2006 21:08:51 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?

Just attempt to run the command, and look in the *Messages* buffer for any error message.

JD

Subject: Re: IDLWave upgrading?

Posted by [Bruce Bowler](#) on Tue, 31 Jan 2006 15:35:30 GMT

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On Mon, 30 Jan 2006 14:08:51 -0700, JD Smith put fingers to keyboard and said:

```

>
>> [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?
>
>
> Just attempt to run the command, and look in the *Messages* buffer for any
> error message.
>
> JD

```

No errors at all... Is there a target date for IDLWave 6?

```

--
+-----+-----+
Bruce Bowler      | Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel. -
1.207.633.9600    | Samuel Adams
bbowler@bigelow.org |
+-----+-----+

```

Subject: Re: IDLWave upgrading?
 Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Wed, 01 Feb 2006 00:09:27 GMT
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On Tue, 31 Jan 2006 10:35:30 -0500, Bruce Bowler wrote:

```

> On Mon, 30 Jan 2006 14:08:51 -0700, JD Smith put fingers to keyboard and
> said:
>
>
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>> Just attempt to run the command, and look in the *Messages* buffer for
>> any error message.
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>> JD
>
> No errors at all... Is there a target date for IDLWave 6?

```

Waiting on a few odds and ends, but it should be within a few weeks.

Emacs may not have the same path as your shell (as is common in OSX, for example). Try starting emacs from the shell directly, and see if that helps. You can M-: (getenv "PATH") to see what emacs things the execute path is.

JD

Subject: Re: IDLWave upgrading?

Posted by [Bruce Bowler](#) on Wed, 01 Feb 2006 13:46:15 GMT

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On Tue, 31 Jan 2006 17:09:27 -0700, JD Smith put fingers to keyboard and said:

```
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>
>> On Mon, 30 Jan 2006 14:08:51 -0700, JD Smith put fingers to keyboard and
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> Emacs may not have the same path as your shell (as is common in OSX, for
> example). Try starting emacs from the shell directly, and see if that
> helps. You can M-: (getenv "PATH") to see what emacs things the execute
> path is.
>
> JD
```

Doing that shows that /usr/local/bin is on the path that emacs sees.
Probably not a surprise, but if I do M-! idlhelp, it works.

--

+-----+-----+-----+-----+

Bruce Bowler | Some people feel with their heads and think with
1.207.633.9600 | their hearts. - G. C. Lichtenberg
bbowler@bigelow.org |

+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+

Subject: Re: IDLWave upgrading?
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Wed, 01 Feb 2006 23:41:59 GMT
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On Wed, 01 Feb 2006 08:46:15 -0500, Bruce Bowler wrote:

```
> On Tue, 31 Jan 2006 17:09:27 -0700, JD Smith put fingers to keyboard and
> said:
>
>> On Tue, 31 Jan 2006 10:35:30 -0500, Bruce Bowler wrote:
>>
>>> On Mon, 30 Jan 2006 14:08:51 -0700, JD Smith put fingers to keyboard and
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> Doing that shows that /usr/local/bin is on the path that emacs sees.
> Probably not a surprise, but if I do M-! idlhelp, it works.
```

OK, I checked and the idlhelp script in IDL 6.2 runs IDL_ASSISTANT in the background, which means that it cannot be started from IDLWAVE in the old way (since there is no shell running to make it a background

task it starts and immediately exits). Older versions of IDL come with an idlhelp script which works fine (well, other than giving you less than useful PDF help).

Since IDL Assistant comes with v6.2, and runs best under IDLWAVE 6.0 anyway, I think we can just let that go, since the menu item you mention will work fine in that case (it uses the idl_assistant script, not idlhelp).

JD
