
Subject: Writing to the IDLde

Posted by [news.verizon.net](#) on Tue, 13 Feb 2007 20:07:31 GMT

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This message will reveal me as a dinosaur, but I am still trying to maintain programs that display output to a terminal, continuously overwriting the previous result. For example, the following little program will continuously display the number of seconds since the program started:

```
pro test, x
cr = string(13b)
for i=0,50 do begin
    wait,1
    print,i,cr,f='($,a,a)'
endfor
end
```

However, this program only works at a Unix terminal: in the IDLDE (Mac or Unix), the carriage return can't erase the previous text. Perhaps, there is some combination of carriage return, linefeed and/or newline suppression format that works with the IDLde but I couldn't locate it.

Of course, I could write the output to a text widget, and update/overwrite using `WIDGET_CONTROL` as needed. But this would require fairly major changes of existing code.

A possibly related question is whether it is possible to display text to the IDLde using the `/MORE` option. At a terminal, one can use `openw,lun,filepath(/terminal),/more,/get_lun`. I had always assumed that this wasn't possible to do this in the IDLde, but compiling with the `-t` option does give `/MORE` output.

Thanks, --Wayne

Subject: Re: Writing to the IDLde

Posted by [Ben Panter](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 16:02:51 GMT

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Kenneth Bowman wrote:

```
> You could try David's showprogress widget
>
> http://www.dfanning.com/widget_tips/show_progress.html
```

Cheers Ken, looks good.

I'd still like something that doesn't need a widget, but it's certainly a good start.

Ben

--

Ben Panter, Edinburgh, UK.

Email false, <http://www.benpanter.co.uk>

or you could try ben at ^^^^^^^^^^^

Subject: Re: Writing to the IDLde

Posted by wlandsman@jhu.edu on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 16:58:42 GMT

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"R.G. Stockwell" <no@email.please> wrote in message
news:45d33716\$0\$25788\$815e3792@news.qwest.net...

>

> Right, I agree that you cannot do it to the IDE window.
> What I meant was to have a function that did some
> appropriate solution, such as a "progress" widget like
> Dave Fanning's. Or one could make a graphics window
> and xyout the message.

....

> There are a lot of possibilities, and it should be very straightforward
> to implement. If not, perhaps the OP can elaborate on what the problem
> is.

Well, my original problem is to update a program
(<http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/pro/tv/curval.pro>) that continuously
displays derived values depending on the cursor position. It is similar
to the IITVIS routine RDPIX, which displays only the cursor position and
intensity. Interestingly, IITVIS does not consider RDPIX to be an
obsolete routine, even though it does not work under the IDE (and thus not
under Windows).

The main purpose of my original post was to make sure there was not some
trick to make the IDE overwrite a line, which would have been the easiest
solution. I will go ahead and create a widget display if the user is using
the IDLDE. It was helpful to receive the suggestion of writing a drop-in
replacement for PRINT.

I even looked at limage which continuously displays cursor position and
intensities by default, but which seems to require a month's work to
reprogram to display astronomical coordinates. --Wayne

Subject: Re: Writing to the IDLde
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 17:04:51 GMT
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Wayne Landsman writes:

> Well, my original problem is to update a program
> (<http://idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov/ftp/pro/tv/curval.pro>) that continuously
> displays derived values depending on the cursor position. It is similar
> to the IITVIS routine RDPIX, which displays only the cursor position and
> intensity. Interestingly, IITVIS does not consider RDPIX to be an
> obsolete routine, even though it does not work under the IDE (and thus not
> under Windows).

Wayne, if you can't get anything else to work, you can
steal most of the code for READ_PIXEL, which is a RDPIX
that works:

http://www.dfanning.com/tips/read_pixel.html

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Subject: Re: Writing to the IDLde
Posted by [KRDean](#) on Wed, 14 Feb 2007 18:58:59 GMT
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On Feb 13, 1:07 pm, "Wayne Landsman" <vze49...@verizon.net> wrote:

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> maintain programs that display output to a terminal, continuously
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> fairly major changes of existing code.
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> A possibly related question is whether it is possible to display text
> to the IDLde using the /MORE option. At a terminal, one can use
> openw,lun,filepath(/terminal),/more,/get_lun . I had always assumed
> that this wasn't possible to do this in the IDLde, but compiling with
> the -t option does give /MORE output.
>
> Thanks, --Wayne

Instead of print, use printf and send the output to a text file. Then
in the MS-DOS window, use the CYGWIN program "tail". It behaves just
like the UNIX command tail.

```
dos>tail -f idl-log.txt
```

Cygwin provides unix-like environment commands for Windows. The
"tail" option -f will display the contents added to the text file as
it grows.

Kelly Dean
Fort Collins, CO
