
Subject: Re: Tab completion of variables and routines at the IDL command line
Posted by [Conor](#) on Tue, 10 Jul 2007 12:43:13 GMT

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On Jul 10, 4:23 am, Allan Whiteford

<allan.rem...@phys.remove.strath.ac.remove.uk> wrote:

> Dear all,

>

> Yesterday I got annoyed enough with the lack of tab completion inside a
> standard UNIX tty session (i.e. not the development environment) that I
> tried to implement something which I've suspected for a while should
> give me tab completion.

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> Anyway, turned out it worked, after a fashion.

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> (For background on tab completion if you don't know what I'm talking
> about see, e.g.:

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> chances are though, if you didn't know what it was then you probably
> aren't too bothered about having it.)

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> current scope, compiled functions (and append a '(' to them) and
> compiled procedures (and append a ',' to them). System procedures and
> functions are also handled.

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> What it DOESN'T do (yet) is:

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> Tab complete structure tags.

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> Realise you can't have a function call as the first item on the command
> line.

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> Realise you can't have a procedure call as anything except the first
> item (or, I guess, after a '&').

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> Tab complete keywords to routines. *

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> Retain support for saving history between sessions.

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> Handle Ctrl-C interrupts as gracefully as it should. *

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> Expand on uncompiled routines. *

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> Full understanding of when a new tab completion can start (e.g. after a
> ',' or a '(' - at the moment it's on space).

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> Look at IDL system variables (or somewhere) to get options for how the
> tab completion should work.
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> Tab complete filenames when appropriate (e.g. after a ".r").
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> Gracefully handle exiting from inside an IDL procedure (by calling the
> "quit" routine). *
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> With the exception of the starred items above, all of the others are
> really my immediate wishlist can/will probably be implemented this week.
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> Now, the question...
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> Is anyone else interested in this? If so then you're welcome to the code
> but if there is sufficient interest (more than five people, say) then
> I'll attempt to produce compilation instructions (of course, first I
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> different versions of IDL.
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> It could be that most people are using either IDLDE or IDLWAVE in which
> case I'm one of the few luddites left unwilling to abandon a standard
> TTY. Also, if this feature already exists in a standard TTY then break
> the news to me gently :).
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> I should say that the way in which this is implemented is truly awful
> and there has to be a better way to do it. However, I gave up waiting
> for someone smarter (hint hint ITTVIS) to do it and just did it myself.
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> As an additional warning I should point out that I've not written any
> serious C in years and that all of the malloc'ing and the realisation I
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> Please also indicate if you think you can help in a testing or code
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> Thanks,
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> Allan

That sounds quite intriguing, I'd certainly be willing to give it a shot (sounds like it could be very useful). I have a strong dislike of IDLDE, and I've never used IDLWAVE, so a plain ol' command line is

how I get things done.

Subject: Re: Tab completion of variables and routines at the IDL command line
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Oh, also, I have essentially zero working knowledge of C, so while I would like to help...

Subject: Re: Tab completion of variables and routines at the IDL command line
Posted by [cgguido](#) on Tue, 10 Jul 2007 14:25:30 GMT

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I would also be interested in something like that. A while back I set this [<http://tinyurl.com/3ymvfz>] up but I can't remember why I did not continue using it...

Gianguido

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