
Subject: Re: New Graphics Tolerant of Clumsy Fingers!
Posted by [Carsten Lechte](#) on Mon, 18 Oct 2010 14:54:40 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

David Fanning wrote:

> Not a peep out of it! This is wonderful.

So, did it do what you wanted, or did it do nothing at all...

chl

Subject: Re: New Graphics Tolerant of Clumsy Fingers!
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 18 Oct 2010 15:08:35 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

Carsten Lechte writes:

> So, did it do what you wanted, or did it do nothing at all...

Neither. :-)

I suppose it did what I told it to do. It just ignores what it doesn't understand, sort of like the dog here at my feet.

My point was, I was trying to get it to do a particular thing, and it wouldn't do it. It took me quite a few minutes to realize the reason it wasn't working was that I had accidentally transposed some letters in a keyword. I know from experience that mis-spelled commands that don't throw errors are some of the HARDEST errors to track down in programs. These objects are not going to make this kind of error any easier to find.

Happy sleuthing!

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: New Graphics Tolerant of Clumsy Fingers!
Posted by [Michael Galloy](#) on Mon, 18 Oct 2010 15:14:51 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On 10/18/10 7:49 am, David Fanning wrote:

> Folks,
>
> In fooling around with some new graphics plots this
> morning I discovered an amazing new feature. The
> graphics routines are *amazingly* tolerant of
> clumsy spelling!
>
> Look at this:
>
> IDL> p = Plot(Findgen(11), /ASPICT_RATIO, AXSI_SYTLE=1, \$
> /XXXLOG, TITIE='Smart Plot!')
>
> Not a peep out of it! This is wonderful. No one I know
> can type anyway. Now we don't have to worry about it!
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
> P.S. I don't know about you, but I'd rather spend my
> time debugging programs than almost anything else.
> These objects are a god-send! :-)

This is the same issue that the iTools have with keywords. While this was one of many serious issues with the iTools' command line interface, it definitely sticks out more with new graphics. Silently ignoring errors is an extremely bad response!

Mike

--

www.michaelgalloy.com
Research Mathematician
Tech-X Corporation

Subject: Re: New Graphics Tolerant of Clumsy Fingers!
Posted by [mankoff](#) on Mon, 18 Oct 2010 16:28:51 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Oct 18, 8:14 am, Michael Galloy <mgal...@gmail.com> wrote:

> On 10/18/10 7:49 am, David Fanning wrote:
>
>

>
>> Folks,
>
>> In fooling around with some new graphics plots this
>> morning I discovered an amazing new feature. The
>> graphics routines are *amazingly* tolerant of
>> clumsy spelling!
>
>> Look at this:
>
>> IDL> p = Plot(Findgen(11), /ASPICT_RATIO, AXSI_SYTLE=1, \$
>> /XXXLOG, TITIE='Smart Plot!')
>
>> Not a peep out of it! This is wonderful. No one I know
>> can type anyway. Now we don't have to worry about it!
>
>> Cheers,
>
>> David
>
>> P.S. I don't know about you, but I'd rather spend my
>> time debugging programs than almost anything else.
>> These objects are a god-send! :-)
>
> This is the same issue that the iTools have with keywords. While this
> was one of many serious issues with the iTools' command line interface,
> it definitely sticks out more with new graphics. Silently ignoring
> errors is an extremely bad response!
>
> Mike
> --www.michaelgalloy.com
> Research Mathematician
> Tech-X Corporation

Isn't this a required side effect of _EXTRA=e?

-k.

Subject: Re: New Graphics Tolerant of Clumsy Fingers!
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 18 Oct 2010 16:35:25 GMT
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

mankoff writes:

> Isn't this a required side effect of _EXTRA=e?

It is a side effect of _EXTRA to be sure. But it

is also the reason `_STRICT_EXTRA` was invented. Normally, by the time you get to the end of the chain (do you go UP, or DOWN!?) you shouldn't have any keywords left to process. If you do, something is wrong.

My guess is that the "something wrong" message is *extremely* long and potentially embarrassing, since it has to come from deep in the bowels of the object graphics system. But, I'm not sure ignoring it is the best possible solution to the problem.

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
