
Subject: Re: Using BREAKPOINT

Posted by [ghsu](#) on Tue, 27 Jun 1995 07:00:00 GMT

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>>>> > "Russ" == Russ Welti <rwelti@chroma.mbt.washington.edu> writes:

```
Russ> I hate BREAKPOINT. Every time I really need to use it it  
Russ> refuses to work, saying it can't find source code  
Russ> corresponding to the given line number.  
Russ> .....snip .... snip
```

Hi, Russ,

I sympathize with your difficulty with BREAKPOINT. You said you simply don't use it at all. I, on the other hand, cannot do IDL without it.

However, I don't know if what I do helps you or not. Since I use GNU Emacs, the interface provided by idl-shell mode for emacs is extremely helpful. With this idl-shell mode, I can run idl and go to the source code (in another emacs buffer) and type a set of keys AT the location where I want to set the breakpoint. This way, I never set it at the wrong place, and I never need to count the number of lines. It is done for me correctly. Removing breakpoint is just as easy. When the program execution stops for whatever reason, either because of an error, or hitting a stop statement, or hitting a breakpoint, the source code appears on another buffer with line highlighted.

The level of convenience is at par with the old IDLTOOL on sunview for IDL 2.x where you can press a button (w/ mouse) to set or clear breakpoint, but even better editing is done in emacs. I have not seen one come out for X window that is as convenient or as simple. So if you use emacs, the solution is simple, get `idl.el` and `idl-shell.el`, and your problem is over. Send me an email, and I can give you all the information about where to get idl modes and even Emacs itself.

If you don't use Emacs, and don't plan to try GNU Emacs just for this, then perhaps `idltool` would be something you can look into. The new `idltool`, released since 3.6 or so, supposed to be able to do all of the above and more, but I have not found it simple enough and intuitive enough to use. The `idltool` for IDL 4.0 seems to be even worse to me. But I have not spent a lot of time with it since it looks like I might have to read some manual just to learn how to use it (by modern standard, that is not an interface!). Perhaps I just grow up on different side of the track to use that interface easily, or perhaps I am too Emacs biased to be fair. Hope this helps.

Good luck!

Guan

ps. I posted a question about IDL 4.0 not behaving right in idl-shell mode a few days ago, and I got an immed. response from Chris Chase, the author of idl.el and idl-shell.el, and he solved the problem right on the spot. Now, that's the kind of support one doesn't get from RSI, or any software company. Emacs user, however, are quite used to, and actually somewhat spoiled (I know I am) by this kind of user support.
