
LispNerd

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DICTCLIENT, DINFO

INTERNAL

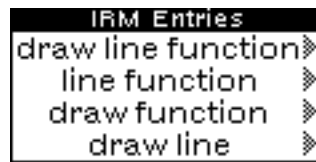
INTRODUCTION

The LispNerd provides a menu-based interface to the Interlisp Reference Manual. The data for the LispNerd is stored on the Dictionary Server, and is accessed via DICTCLIENT. Because of certain licensing agreements we have with Houghton-Mifflin, the Dictionary Server should only be used by people within PARC. Hence LispNerd has not been released as a LispUsers package.

HOW TO USE THE LISPNERD

When you load the LISPNERD, it adds a new menu item called "Search IRM" to the background menu. Bugging "Search IRM" causes the LispNerd to prompt the user for keywords in the prompt window. It then produces a menu of items that have at least two of the keywords in their definitions (perhaps with submenus, if there is more than one class of items). Bugging one of these items will cause the LispNerd to fetch the documentation for that item using DInfo.

For example, if you type the input "draw line function", you will get the following menu:



where each of the entries has a sub-menu of the items that have the keywords listed in the entry.

If you type the input "date", you will get a menu all of the items in the Interlisp Reference Manual that have the word "date" in them. Putting parenthesis around items means that the items should all be treated as one keyword for the purposes of sorting them into groups. For instance, the input "(draw draws)(line lines) function" will look for all of the items that have "draw" OR "draws" in their definition.

LispNerd only fetches 50 entries at a time, so sometimes you will see an entry in the menu that says something like ". . . + 103 more". Clicking this item will cause the LispNerd to fetch the next 50 entries. Also, when there is more than one class of entries, sometimes a sub-menu will only list the number of

entries it has, and not the entries themselves. To get the entries, click the menu item with the keywords in it, and LispNerd will recompute the menu with just those keywords.

Please send all bug reports to Maxwell.pa.