

Adding New Message Forms to Lafite

Sometimes you would like make message forms other than by editing some text in a Lafite message sending window and then storing it away on a file using the 'Save Form' menu item -- e.g. compute it on the fly like the 'Lisp Support' selection does. To add your own items to the 'Message Forms' menu you add a standard three-element menu item to the variable `LAFITEFORMSMENUITEMS` and then set the variable `LAFITEFORMSMENU` to `NIL` (this is where the menu is cached).

The trick to this working is the special interpretation made on what gets returned from the call to `MENU`. It should be a `LITATOM` and the interpretation is that if the atom

1. has a function definition it is `APPLY`d with no arguments and the returned value is used
2. has a value, its value is used
3. otherwise, a copy of the file by that name is used.

Note: in cases 1 and 2, the value should be something `TEditable` -- e.g. a string or stream.

For example, if `TEdit` wanted to add a message form that contained the date the `TEdit` was made (similar to Lafite's bug report form) it could add

```
("TEdit Support" (QUOTE MAKETEDITFORM)
  "Make a form to report a problem with TEdit")
```

to `LAFITEFORMSMENUITEMS` and `MAKETEDITFORM` could be defined to be

```
[LAMBDA NIL
  (PROG (OUTSTREAM)
    (SETQ OUTSTREAM (OPENTEXTSTREAM ""))
    (printout OUTSTREAM "Subject: Tedit: >>Subject<<" T)
    (printout OUTSTREAM "To: " TEDITSUPPORT T)
    (printout OUTSTREAM "cc: " (USERNAME) T)
    (printout OUTSTREAM "TEdit-System-Date: " TEDITSYSTEMDATE T T)
    (printout OUTSTREAM ">>Message<<" T)
    (RETURN OUTSTREAM])
```

where `TEDITSUPPORT` and `TEDITSYSTEMDATE` are variables set by `TEdit`.