If a GUI environment is available it puts it in a window, otherwise it logs the information.
This function will normally be called from an “About...” menu item.

Arguments

use_gui	Should we use a gui? Allowed:boolean Default: have_gui

Example

```
- about()
```

1.6.8 printer - Tool

Package utility
Module misc

Print files
include "printer.g"

Constructors

printer	Create a printer access tool

Functions

gui	Send some files to the printer using a GUI
print	Send some files to the printer
printvalues	Print some Glish values
reinit	Reset the printing parameters

Description
The printer class provides access to “printing” text and postscript files both to a printer or to ghostview. The printing can take place in a number of formats (portrait, landscape, two-up) and paper formats (letter, A3, A4). The actual work is carried out behind the scenes by the `pri` shell script, which in turn calls `lwf_a`. Both of these are documented in the system manual.
A GUI control panel is also provided by this class – this is suitable for use

both by users directly, and through a “Print...” item on a GUI.
The major change that is needed is that defaults should be pulled in from aipsrc rather than assumed (printer.default is used though if the PRINTER environment variable is not set).

Example

```
- p := printer()
- p.gui()
```

printer - Constructor

Package	**utility**
Module	**misc**
Tool	**printer**

Create a printer access tool

Synopsis
printer(printername, mode, paper, display, printernote)

Arguments

printername	in	Device name of the printer. Defaults to PRINTER environment variable or printer.default aipsrc variable. Default: F
mode	in	How to print the file Allowed:p=portrait,l=landscape,80=two-up width=80,72=two-up width=72 Default: p
paper	in	Paper format Allowed:l=US letter, A4, A3 Default: l
display	in	Print to ghostview instead of print? Allowed:boolean Default: F
printernote	in	The note function to use to log our messages. Allowed:a note function Default: note

Returns
Printer tool

printer.reinit - Function

Package	**utility**
Module	**misc**
Tool	**printer**

Reset the printing parameters

Synopsis
reinit(printername, mode, paper, display)

Arguments

printername	in	Device name of the printer. Defaults to PRINTER environment variable. Default: F
mode	in	How to print the file Allowed:p=portrait,l=landscape,80=two-up width=80,72=two-up width=72 Default: p
paper	in	Paper format Allowed:l=US letter, A4, A3 Default: l
display	in	Print to ghostview instead of print? Allowed:boolean Default: F

printer.print - Function

Package	**utility**
Module	**misc**
Tool	**printer**

Send some files to the printer

Synopsis
print(files)

Arguments

files	in	List of file names (text or postscript) Allowed:string array

Description
This routine prints files (in the background), optionally removing them after printing them. It uses reports information via note about what it has done, whether some of the files don't exist, and so on.

---

printer.gui - Function

Package	**utility**
Module	**misc**
Tool	**printer**

Send some files to the printer using a GUI

Synopsis
gui(files, landscape)

Arguments

files	in	List of file names (text or postscript) Allowed:string array Default: ""
landscape	in	Default to landscape printing? Allowed:boolean Default: F

Description
While this routine is intended to be attached to a "Print..." menu item, it may also be called directly. If the list of files is set (not empty), then the user may-not edit the list, it will only print the files which are passed in. Probably there should be a preview button as well, and the ability to "freeze" other items besides the file list - in particular the "delete" button.

---

printer.printvalues - Function

Package	**utility**
Module	**misc**
Tool	**printer**

Print some Glish values

Synopsis
printvalues(values, needcr, usegui)

Arguments

values	in	Glish variable to be printed Allowed:any
needcr	in	Do we need carriage returns at the end of every line? Allowed:boolean Default: T
usegui	in	Use the GUI? Allowed:boolean Default: F

Description
This function formats a Glish variable (which might be an array), writes it into a temporary file, and prints it and then removes the temporary file. `needcr` normally needs to be True, the only time it doesn't is if you are printing a Glish string which already has embedded new lines.

Example

```
- p := printer(display=T)  # use ghostview
- p.printvalues(1:100)     # show 1 2 ... 100 in it
```

1.6.9 help - Function

Package utility
Module misc

Provides user help.

Synopsis
help(help about, browser, server)
include "aips2help.g"

Description
help will either drive a browser (beta release supports Netscape only) to the requested help page or will scroll help text. If the argument contains a :, as in Refman:table, it will drive the browser to the table module in the reference manual. If instead you type, help('table') it would display the output on the local screen. You may time help() and see the following:

```
Please provide an argument to help.  If you type

 help('aips')
        will summarize the modules available in the aips package.
        Other packages available are synthesis and NRAO. You may also
        supply a function, tool, or module name in place of aips and
        have help about that argument printed.


 help('Refman:')
        it will give you the WWW address and drive your WWW browser
        to the \aipspp  User's Reference Manual


 help('Glish:')
        will give you the WWW address manual and drive your WWW browser
        to the Glish User Manual.


help('Refman:table.table')
        will drive your web browser the table tool constructor of the
        table tool in the \aipspp  User's Reference Manual.
```

Arguments

help about	Help a user is looking for Allowed:String
browser	Optional browser to drive Allowed:Optional: netscape or mosaic Default: netscape
server	Optional server to use Allowed:Optional: any valid AIPS++documentation server Default: file://localhost

Returns
F if driving a browser, but prints help text to the local screen if not using a browser.

Example
There are two ways to use help, one prints help text to the glish window, the second drives a web browser (only Netscape for the beta release) to the appropriate place in the User Reference Manual.

```
help('table.close')

displays help about table.close in the local glish window.  To have help
drive a browser to a web page

help('Refman:table.close');

or to drive a different browser or server you could

help('Refman:table.close', browser='mosaic', server='http://aips2.nrao.edu')

the new browser and server are remembered so you don't need to subsequently
set them again.
```

If displaying help in the glish window, the argument may contain wild cards i.e catalog.* or *.catalog. All matches found will be displayed in a list. If only one match is found then its help text will be printed in the glish window. As a short cut, web() maybe used to drive the web browser to the appropriate page in the User Reference Manual.
If using the web browser as the means to display help, you need to specify which document to look at. In the above example, Refman: tells the help system to use the AIPS++User Reference Manual, table.close tell the help system to goto the label table.close. Table here refers to the table tool, and close to the table function close. You must specify the volume you wish to search by making it first in the argument list and seperating it with a : from the rest of the help string. If you don't use the : help will try and print a summary to your glish window. You may use either . or a space to seperate the help string. The following are equivalent

- Refman:table:close
- Refman:table.close
- Refman:table close

The first item in the list is the volume to search.
Help may use two aipsrc variables to alter the default documentation server and browser. These are:

help.browser The browser to use for driving help, the default is Netscape and

help.server The address for the help server, the default is http://localhost.

See Also
web

1.6.10 web - Function
Package utility
Module misc

Drives a web browser to the last requested help

Synopsis
web()

Description
If you request help using:

```
help('table.close')
```

text will be displayed in the glish window. web() will drive the browser to that location in the User Reference Manual. If no help was found web() will drive the browser to the AIPS++search page (The beta release only supports driving Netscape to a requested help page).

See Also
help

1.6.11 bug - Function
Package utility
Module misc

Provides a GUI to for user's to report problems.

Synopsis
bug()
include "aips2help.g"

Description

Bug provides a GUI to report AIPS++problems. Problem reports are initially sent to one of three AIPS++sites, Australia (ATNF-Epping), Europe (NFRA), or North America (NRAO-Socorro). If the aipsrc variable system.aipscenter (or system.aipscentre) is not set, then the query is set to the north america site. Possible options for system.aipscenter are namerica, europe, or australia. For best service please choose a site that is near you.

1.6.12 ask - Function

Package utility
Module misc

Provides a GUI to for user's to ask questions.

Synopsis
ask()
include "aips2help.g"

Description
Ask provides a GUI similar to bug that the user may ask questions of thier local AIPS++guru. If the aipsrc variable system.local.contact is not set, then the query is set to aips2-help@nrao.edu. The intent is for a local contact person to screen questions answering those they can and passing those question that they can't answer to the AIPS++group. A local AIPS++contact maybe specified using the aipsrc variable system.local.contact.

1.6.13 register - Function

Package utility
Module misc

Provides a GUI to for user's to register AIPS++.

Synopsis
register()
include "aips2help.g"

Description
Register provides a GUI for registering your AIPS++installation.