CoCoA-5 - Support #1650

Potentially confusing prompt: waiting for semicolon

24 Jan 2022 20:42 - John Abbott

Status:	In Progress		**Start date:**	24 Jan 2022
Priority:	Normal		**Due date:**	
Assignee:			**% Done:**	70%
Category:	Parser/Interpreter		**Estimated time:**	0.00 hour
Target version:	CoCoA-5.4.2		**Spent time:**	0.90 hour

Description

The following could be confusing:

```
/**/ A := L[1
[[waiting for semicolon]] /**/
```

Can we find a better name for the prompt?

History

#1 - 27 Jan 2022 14:27 - John Abbott

How about **[[command incomplete]]**?
Though that does read rather like an error message...

#2 - 18 Mar 2024 21:14 - John Abbott

- Status changed from New to In Progress

- % Done changed from 0 to 10

Since some languages (such as Julia) do not require semicolons to end the command while CoCoA does, perhaps the a common cause of an incomplete command is indeed a missing semicolon... and in this case the prompt is reasonably helpful.
The example I gave is "awkward": but if the user were then to type a semicolon then a more precise/helpful error will be produced.

I'm now tempted to say that we stick with the current prompt until someone comes up with a better suggestion (and/or there is a genuine case where the prompt is badly misleading).
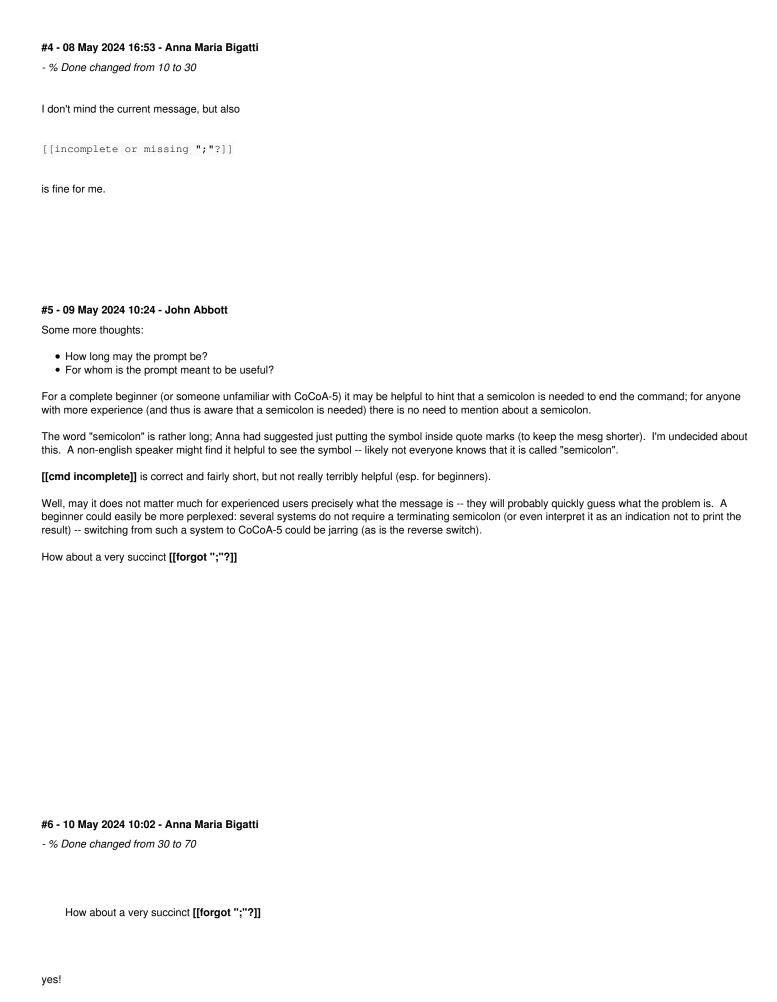
Should we reject this issue?

#3 - 05 May 2024 20:57 - John Abbott

It does seem to be hard to find a better prompt without it become too long (and possibly still not covering all cases).

Here are some more suggestions:

- **[[cmd incomplete, missing semicolon?]]**
- **[[cmd incomplete, missing ";"?]]**
- **[[incomplete or missing ";"?]]**

#4 - 08 May 2024 16:53 - Anna Maria Bigatti

- % Done changed from 10 to 30

I don't mind the current message, but also

```
[[incomplete or missing ";"?]]
```

is fine for me.

#5 - 09 May 2024 10:24 - John Abbott

Some more thoughts:

- How long may the prompt be?
- For whom is the prompt meant to be useful?

For a complete beginner (or someone unfamiliar with CoCoA-5) it may be helpful to hint that a semicolon is needed to end the command; for anyone with more experience (and thus is aware that a semicolon is needed) there is no need to mention about a semicolon.

The word "semicolon" is rather long; Anna had suggested just putting the symbol inside quote marks (to keep the mesg shorter). I'm undecided about this. A non-english speaker might find it helpful to see the symbol -- likely not everyone knows that it is called "semicolon".

[[cmd incomplete]] is correct and fairly short, but not really terribly helpful (esp. for beginners).

Well, may it does not matter much for experienced users precisely what the message is -- they will probably quickly guess what the problem is. A beginner could easily be more perplexed: several systems do not require a terminating semicolon (or even interpret it as an indication not to print the result) -- switching from such a system to CoCoA-5 could be jarring (as is the reverse switch).

How about a very succinct **[[forgot ";"?]]**

#6 - 10 May 2024 10:02 - Anna Maria Bigatti

- % Done changed from 30 to 70

> How about a very succinct **[[forgot ";"?]]**

yes!

#7 - 10 May 2024 10:30 - John Abbott

Another suggestion
[[incomplete or forgot ";"?]]

#8 - 10 May 2024 10:33 - John Abbott

Anna suggests
[[waiting for ";"]]