
Subject: IDL modes for Emacs

Posted by [Kevin Ivory](#) on Fri, 20 Mar 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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The IDL modes for Emacs `idl.el` and `idl-shell.el` still need a competent maintainer. If you know some Emacs Lisp, you might want to give it a try.

Two things I have noticed with newer versions of Emacs (I use GNU Emacs 20.2) are:

- * There is some conflict between the C-mode distributed with Emacs and the current IDL-mode: If C-mode is loaded in any Emacs buffer, IDL-mode refuses to font-lock (=colorize) the IDL code and also gives an error message about not being able to support lmenu.
- * Emacs 20 does not fontify common blocks the way Emacs 19 did. (with reference and variable fonts)

Even if you do not want to maintain the modes: If you know enough Lisp to fix the problems, I would be glad to patch the files.

I recently gave both modes a higher version number, since I updated the comment information about no maintainer and about the current source code availability.

`idl-shell.el` version 2.5

has no changes in the executable code. (comment changes only)

`idl.el` version 1.40

adds support for editing, running the file from Emacs in `Idlde`.

(Thanks to Lubos Pochman <lubos@rsinc.com> from RSI.)

The current versions are available at:

<ftp://pivory.mpae.gwdg.de/pub/idl/emacs/>

<http://pivory.mpae.gwdg.de/idl/emacs/>

http://www.mpae.gwdg.de/mpae_RZ/software/idl/emacs/

ftp://ftp.rsinc.com/pub/user_contrib/emacs/

and soon at (their mirroring seems to have failed)

ftp://ftp.creaso.com/pub/user_contrib/emacs/

The files were also contributed to the Emacs Lisp archive of Ohio State university, but they only seem to update once a year.

Happy editing & computing,
Kevin

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