
Subject: Re: Linux vs Win95

Posted by [J.D. Smith](#) on Tue, 01 Dec 1998 08:00:00 GMT

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Karsten Rodenacker wrote:

>
> The thread has turned to emacs vs idlde.
>
> I'm also using (x)emacs on unix and idlde on NT, however I prefer xemacs
> (and the development under unix). Idl under the latter behaves IMHO more
> reasonable.
>
> Still I would appreciate to get some improvements of idl.el and
> idl-shell.el e.g. the color-coding of user and inbuilt procedures and a
> key for 'widget_control,/reset&heap_gc&close,/all&retall '.

You can add your own abbreviations to idl mode as follows:

In .emacs or wherever is being sourced... add something like this:

```
(setq idl-abbrev-start-char ".")
(add-hook 'idl-mode-hook
  (function
    (lambda ()
      (font-lock-mode 1)      ; font-lock mode
      (fast-lock-mode 1)
      (idl-auto-fill-mode 0)  ; Turn off auto filling
      (define-abbrev idl-mode-abbrev-table (concat idl-abbrev-start-char
"on"
) "obj_new()"
      (idl-keyword-abbrev 1))
    )))
```

You can add in whatever else you like into this hook too (see the beginning of the idl.el file), and make as many abbrevs as suits you. The thing to remember is that the number after "idl-keyword-abbrev" is how many characters to move back from the end of the expansion after it is performed.
Hope it helps.

As far as adding key command shortcuts to the idl command line, you can use "define_key" in your startup file...

e.g.

```
define_key,'F3','widget_control,/reset&heap_gc&close ,/all&retall',/TERMINATE
```

Good Luck,

JD

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