
Subject: Emacs IDL editing: idl.el v1.8

Posted by [chase](#) on Tue, 22 Mar 1994 15:56:43 GMT

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I have updated idl.el to version 1.8. idl.el is a emacs editing/formatting mode for IDL ".pro" files. The new version can be obtained by anonymous FTP from esrg.ucsb.edu, file pub/idl/idl.el - (the site of the Frequently Asked Question file). Or I can email it directly to anyone who contacts me.

Changes from version 1.6 (nothing big):

Changed many of the defaults: electric commands (padding with spaces, automatic capitalization of keywords, etc.) are off by default. Now use "C-j" for return and indent (now RET just inserts a carriage return). When enabled, padding with spaces (=,<,>, etc.) inserts a `_minimum_` (the default) of spaces.

Added menus (for emacs v19): Main menu bar IDL menu (requires easymenu.el); pop-up list of program units in the file (requires imenu.el). No effect in emacs v18.

Fixed some bugs.

For those who use Emacs and IDL but are unfamiliar with idl.el here is a list of idl-mode features:

- * custom key map.
- * movement commands up/down/across blocks and units.
- * indentation of blocks, continuation statements.
- * insertion of templates for standard control blocks.
- * comment paragraph filling, region (un)commenting.
- * header and history modification insertion.
- * "electric actions" - abbrev expansion (e.g., macros), capitalization of keywords, padding of operators (=, <, etc).
- * automatic line splitting and continuation.
- * menus - pop up a list of procedures/functions in the file for quick movement. Main menu bar IDL menu with general commands.
- * all features are customizable.

Read the installation instructions toward the beginning of the file.

Please let me know about bugs/features/criticisms that I can use to improve idl.el.

Chris Chase

P.S. At the archive site is available `idl-shell.el` which runs `idl` inside an emacs buffer instead of a terminal window - very useful for command history and output manipulation. Plus it contains rudimentary features for IDL code debugging such as setting breakpoints in sources and stepping through the source file. It is based on `comint.el` which is used in many Emacs subprocess modes such as `shell-mode`.

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