
Subject: Re: idlwave help

Posted by [John-David T. Smith](#) on Thu, 25 Oct 2001 17:52:13 GMT

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Ken Mankoff wrote:

>

> On Thu, 25 Oct 2001, John-David Smith wrote:

>> Ken Mankoff wrote:

>>>

>>> I would like to start using completion in the editing buffer, not just the

>>> shell. I think this is bound to M-TAB (or ESC-TAB). When I hit that, I get

>>> the following:

>>

>> This is all covered in the INSTALL file you'll find in the distribution.

>

> Hi JD,

>

> I had done a custom location install before, as I dont have root

> privileges on my main computer. I do on another one, and am now testing

> this there. I have followed the INSTALL file verbatim, and here is my

> .emacs:

>

> ;(setq load-path (cons "~/local/idlwave-4.9d" load-path))

> (autoload 'idlwave-mode "idlwave" "IDLWAVE Mode" t)

> (autoload 'idlwave-shell "idlw-shell" "IDLWAVE Shell" t)

> (setq auto-mode-alist

> (cons ("\\.pro\\\\" . idlwave-mode) auto-mode-alist))

> (setq idlwave-help-directory "/usr/local/etc")

>

> If I do this, and emacs a .pro file, it starts in my default major-mode,

> Text. However, even in text mode, ESC-TAB *does* bring up completions. But

> obviously, font-lock-mode and other stuff does not work.

>

> Also, the *Messages* buffer has this:

> File mode specification error: (file-error "Cannot open load file" "idlwave")

>

> -----

> If I change my .emacs so that the commented line above is uncommented,

> then when I edit a file, I get loaded into "IDLWAVE Abbrev Fill" mode,

> syntax is highlighted, and "C-c,?" brings up help, etc... In short,

> everything works but the ESC-TAB. If I hit that, it says that 'tags are

> not loaded'.

>

> The confusing thing is that ~/local/idlwave-4.9d is where I ran

> % make; su; make install-all

>

> Ideally, I would like to run everything out of ~/local/idlwave, so that I

> can have the same setup on all my computers, even where i am not root.

Aha, I think I see. You do need idlwave on your path, so the commented line is necessary unless you allow IDLWAVE to be installed in a standard location. "make install-all" copies things into /usr/local/share/emacs/site-lisp (unless you told it otherwise), and /usr/local/etc for the help file. You might consider using this default location, instead of ~/local/idlwave-4.9d, in the load-path statement. Alternatively, if you want to leave things where they are, simply omit the "make install-all", and add the build directory to load-path.

In case you are curious, the problem is that different Emaacs installations have different default "load-path" variables for emacs (similar to the !PATH variable for IDL .pro files). Some include /usr/local/share/emacs, others don't. You can figure out if yours does by doing "[C-h v] load-path [Ret]" to inspect the path variable.

The problem here is that [ESC-Tab] is actually **not** bound to anything by IDLWAVE, but [M-Tab] is, so the former defaults to the standard emacs binding. I always use the Meta form, since it's much faster (Meta is the same as Alt, for all you PC users), and I encourage you to do the same. If you can't, or just want ESC-Tab to work in addition, add something to .emacs like:

```
(add-hook 'idlwave-mode-hook
  (lambda ()
    (local-set-key [?\e?\t] 'idlwave-complete)))
```

Good luck,

JD

P.S. RSI has dealt IDLWAVE a noticeable blow with v5.5, including no documentation updates, and changed format for certain "help" reports. Hopefully a new version which overcomes these issues will be forthcoming.
