
Subject: Re: changing editors?

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Mon, 24 Jun 2002 21:50:05 GMT

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"tim gunter" <tim.gunter@bioscrypt.com> wrote in message
news:f924816d.0206240946.323f49b@posting.google.com...

> I'm running IDL 5.4 on Windows 2k. I have been trying to figure out
> if there is a way to change from the default IDL editor to a
> different one, such as gvim.

No there isn't.

I use XEmacs with idlwave mode for most of my IDL editing on
windows. What I have done is this:

- Write a macro to open the current file in my editor and attach it
to a handy key combination The macro command is something like

```
spawn, 'xemacs "%f"
```

(Actually it's not exactly that because I have wrapped the command
to spawn xemacs in a procedure, but you get the idea. I'm not sure
if the quoting is right.)

- Open each .pro file I want to edit in the IDLDE editor with the
.edit executive command.

- Run macro and edit file in xemacs.

- When finished editing, close file and return to IDLDE. IDLDE sees
that the file has been modified and asks whether to reload it. Say
yes! Then compile.

It's messy, but it works as long as you don't make changes in both
editors at once.

> Also it appears there is no way to run IDL from the command line
> under windows, is there any way to do so?

No. At least, you can launch IDLDE from a command line if you want,
but it's the same window-mode application as you get from clicking on
the shortcut. There's no console-mode IDL.

There's no technical reason why a console-mode IDL executable doesn't
exist. It would be handy with (X)Emacs idlwave mode. If enough users
hassled RSI they *could* release one, but don't hold your breath.

> Any help on getting IDL to work better with command line utils (in
> particular cygwin) would be helpful.

I use both Cygwin & IDL a great deal. Spawning Cygwin commands from
IDL is straightforward. Getting information from IDL to Cygwin
involves kludges: write a file in IDL, switch to command shell and
read file, that sort of thing.

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Mark Hadfield "Ka puwaha te tai nei, Hoesa tatou"
m.hadfield@niwa.co.nz
National Institute for Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)

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