Subject: Re: changing editors?
Posted by MKatz843 on Wed, 10 Jul 2002 07:47:19 GMT
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> So this is most probably a stupid question, but why not chuck windows
> and use one of the approximately zillion Linux flavors out there? You
> seem to be using your win-box mostly as a u*x box anyways, so why not
> just go that one last step?

I've got an even better UNIX box on my desk. It's called a Mac, with
OS X.

Actually, I never realized that IDL for Windows doesn't have a
command-line interface until I read this thread. How can you all
tolerate the hassle this causes? (Now I understand why my PC
colleagues use Matlab.) IDL's Classic Mac interface is a great joy to
use, complete with command line (including command completion), a
wonderful editor with syntax coloring (even on the command line), and
loads of diagnostics. No need for bizarre kludges. I especially
appreciate the way program errors or interruptions bring your cursor
right to the offending line or stop point in an editor window.

With Classic support going away, the new Mac interface (now overdue)
will be an Xwindows (XFree86, actually) implementation--which also
runs beautifully on the Mac. I hope they can maintain some of the
great features from the Mac IDL environment, it's a great time saver
over programming in a Linux/Unix emacs/vi/whatever world.

With Linux, watch out of annoying, picky
widget/window/color/graphics/font issues and inconsistencies. In my
cross-platform life, I've spent days working out problems for Linux
that don't exist on the Mac.

My 2-cents,
M. Katz