
Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X
Posted by [Carsten Dominik](#) on Fri, 06 Dec 2002 08:31:22 GMT
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>>>> > "p" == psisquared01 <psisquared01@netscape.net> writes:
To: psisquared01@netscape.net (psisquared)
Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X
References: <c34328d6.0212022253.2ded13e0@posting.google.com>
From: Carsten Dominik <dominik@_DROP_THIS_science.uva.nl>
--text follows this line--

>>>> > "p" == psisquared01 <psisquared01@netscape.net> writes:

[... Meta-TAB problem with IDLWAVE on Mac OSX ...]

There are several issues here. If you are not interested in the details, just jump to point 4.

1. The carbonized Emacs uses the Apple Command key as a Meta key. I.e., in order to press M-q for example, you would hold down the command key while pressing q. This works for most key combinations, but not for M-TAB. M-TAB (really, Command-TAB) is captured by the operating system very early and is used to switch applications in the Dock. So M-TAB never reaches the Emacs application!
2. There is a classic alternative on Emacs. Instead of holding down the Meta key, one can also press (and release) ESC and then press the wanted key. So ESC TAB is an alternative to M-TAB. Most of the time these two are equivalent, so assigning an Emacs command to M-TAB will make it work with both versions. For example:

```
(define-key global-map [(meta ?q)]  
  (lambda () (interactive)  
    (message "yes")))
```

will print "yes" in the echo area if you press M-q (i.e. Command-q on the Mac) or ESC q.

3. However, the TAB key is different. Binding to M-TAB will not always assign something to ESC-TAB as well - this seems to be system dependent and has to do with the internal representation of key events.
4. To make a long story short: On the Mac, you cannot have IDLWAVE completion on M-TAB (i.e. Command-TAB). However, the following will assign idlwave-complete to ESC TAB:

```
(add-hook 'idlwave-mode-hook
  (lambda ()
    (define-key idlwave-mode-map "\M-\C-i" 'idlwave-complete)))
```

JD, maybe you should just add this as an additional binding.

Hope this helps.

- Carsten

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