Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X
Posted by JD Smith on Thu, 05 Dec 2002 02:33:26 GMT

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On Tue, 03 Dec 2002 22:58:10 -0700, psisquared wrote:

> In <pan.2002.12.04.04.13.56.540374.19560@as.arizona.edu> JD Smith wrote:
>> From: JD Smith <jdsmith@as.arizona.edu> Newsgroups:
>> comp.lang.idl-pvwave
>> Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X Date: Tue,
>> 03 Dec 2002 21:13:56 -0700 Organization: The University of Arizona
>>
>> On Mon, 02 Dec 2002 23:53:05 -0700, psisquared wrote:
>>
>>> Hello! I've been using the IDL editor for a few years on PCs/Macs and
>>> am now trying to get setup on Mac OS X with Emacs, IDLWAVE and IDL 5.
>>> 6 (I tried the IDLDE but it doesn't seem very good compared to what
>>> I'm used to on the PC/Classic Mac--where's the syntax highlighting?).
>>> I'm pretty new to Unix and very new to Emacs so although I've been
>>> able to learn alot along the way solving the problems I've come across
>>> this one has me stumped :(I'm going through the IDLWAVE in a Nutshell
>>> document and in the beginning there is reference to using Meta-Tab
>>> after a PLOT call in order to see possible keywords. When I hit
>>> Meta-Tab, I get the error 'No tags table loaded try M-x visit-
>>> tags-table'. I went so far as to create a tags table with IDLTAGS --
>>> etags, but I don't think that was the right direction...now Meta-Tab
>>> completes plot and produces plot_wfield. IDLWAVE is running--IDLWAVE
>>> and DEBUG menus show up, and I can start the IDL shell in EMacs with
>>> C-c C-s. I just saw that I can get completion to work by selecting
>>> Completion from the IDLWAVE menu that list shortcut (<M-tab>) In fact,
>>> my meta key definitely works too, cause I used it in the Emacs
>>> tutorial and I used it in IDLWAVE mode to start the IDLDE(Meta-s). It
>>> just refuses to work for M-tab for IDLWAVE..argh. In case it helps,
>>> here's some more info: I'm running OS X 10.2.2, the OS X emacs 21.3.
>>> 50, and installed IDLWAVE 4.1.6 from idlwave.org into /usr/share/
>>> emacs/site-lisp which is in my Emacs load-path variable. I removed the
>>> 4.1.5 version that came with my Emacs install. I read a previous
>>> thread that was similar to my problem that turned out to be a conflict
>>> with Linux Alt-tab, but that doesn't seem to be my problem, but maybe
>>> it is similar since my original Meta-key was the Apple(command) key,
>>> which is used for Apple-tab application switching in OS X. I changed
>>> the meta key from Apple to Option(alt) by setting the command below in
>>> my .emacs file. And, here's my .emacs file: (if (equal
>>> default-directory "/") (setq default-directory "~/")) (setq mac-
>>> command-key-is-meta nil) (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/share/emacs/site-lisp") (

>>> add-hook 'idlwave-mode-hook 'turn-on-font-lock) From what I've read
>>> so far about IDLWAVE it seems like a great environment so I'd really
>>> like to get this working fully. Not sure what else isn't going to work
>>> because of this problem so I prefer to fix problems before moving on.
>>> Sorry this is kind of long, but it just scratches the surface of what
>>> I've tried so far! Any fixes, tips, suggestions? TIA.
>>
>> Try this:
>>
>> C-h k M-Tab
>>
>> and tell us what you find. It should look something like:
>>
>> M-tab runs the command idlwave-complete
>>   which is an interactive compiled Lisp function in `idlwave'.
>> (idlwave-complete &optional ARG MODULE CLASS)
>>
>> Instead, it will probably say a different key/function, probably one
>> with the word "tags" in it ;)
>>
>> The issue is likely related to the fact the ESC is another viable
>> equivalent for Meta,and etags uses a large ESC map. Try ESC Tab (
>> escape followed by Tab) in the same way and report that too.
>>
>> Good luck with OSX+IDLWAVE -- you're one of the first few I've heard
>> trying it.
>>
>> JD
>>
>> P.S. I find it highly entertaining that new users are beginning to see
>> IDLWAVE as an integral part of the IDL environment ;).
>
> Thanks for the info JD.
> C-h k M-tab gives me:
> M-TAB runs the command complete-symbol
>   which is an interactive
> compiled Lisp function in `bindings'.
> It is bound to M-TAB.
> (complete-
> symbol ARG)
>
> Perform tags completion on the text around point.
>
> Completes to the set of names listed in the current tags table.
> The
> string to complete is chosen in the same way as the default
> for M-. (
> which see).

>
> With a prefix argument, this command does completion
> within
> the collection of symbols listed in the index of the manual for
> the
> language you are using.
>
> C-h k Esc Tab gives the same message..'Esc Tab runs the command
> complete- symbol'...
>
> After Dick's suggestion I defined M-q for idlwave-complete and that
> seems to have worked. Any idea if that will interfere with any other
> commands in IDLWAVE or Emacs(I'm very new to this)? Perhaps there's a
> better alternative I should get used to. For some reason Tab won't play
> nice for me...oh well.

That will mess up fill paragraph, which works wonders in long comments.
and even allows hanging comments like:

```
 ;============================================================
==================
;  SetProperty - Set properties for tvDraw objects.  Use NO_RESIZE to
;           display a new image using the same offset and zoom,
;           etc. (unless we can't).  Otherwise, these are reset.
 ;============================================================
==================
```

> I didn't quite realize IDL ran through an X-window environment on
> OS X 8-)

You're certainly not the first to be surprised.

>
> I see your email address is from U of A. I assume your in Tucson...nice
> rain we've been getting, huh :)

Yes indeed. My visiting family from back east thought it was a sick
joke though.

JD