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Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X

Posted by [psisquared](#) on Wed, 04 Dec 2002 05:58:10 GMT

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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.

With regards to OS X...it's definitely been fun to tinker with all of this...unix, xfree86, emacs, etc. is a whole new computing world for me. I'm sure I'll have lots more questions so I definitely appreciate the help! My company just happened to still have a couple of Mac licenses around for IDL that they weren't using anymore so I thought I'd try it out. I didn't quite realize IDL ran through an X-window environment on OS X 8-)

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

Thanks again!  
-Rob

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