Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X
Posted by JD Smith on Wed, 04 Dec 2002 04:13:56 GMT

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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 ;).