
Subject: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X
Posted by [psisquared01](#) on Tue, 03 Dec 2002 06:53:05 GMT
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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.
