

>>>> > "DB" == David Bowman <dbowman@fullerton.edu> writes:

DB> Can somebody tell me an easy, straightforward way to install a Xemacs  
DB> and idlwave? Please, treat me as the complete moron that I feel like.  
DB> Include things like web sites where the programs can be downloaded.  
DB> I'm sure this would be appreciated by many other stranded Mac IDL  
DB> users.

Relax, it is easy when you know where to look.

1. Get Emacs. Currently under MacOS X, I recommend Emacs, not XEmacs.  
You can get a binary package from

<http://mindlube.com/developer/>

Follow the instructions to install it (trivial).

The default font in this Emacs is a bit odd. Also, since you seem to come from a Mac background, you probably want the Command key to behave normally when you work with Emacs. Therefore, create a ".emacs" file in your home directory and insert the following lines:

```
;; 10pt Monaco.  
(set-default-font "-apple-monaco-medium-r-normal--10-120-75-75-m-120-mac-roman ")  
;; Make option act as meta.  
(setq mac-command-key-is-meta nil)
```

2. That version of Emacs already contains IDLWAVE, fully installed.  
Any .pro files will automatically be edited in IDLWAVE mode. To round things off, you want to add to .emacs

```
;; Syntax coloring  
(global-font-lock-mode 1)  
;; Tell Emacs where the idl binary is.  
(setq idlwave-shell-explicit-file-name "/usr/local/rsi/idl/bin/idl")  
;; Start IDL when needed  
(setq idlwave-shell-automatic-start t)
```

That should get you up and running. Good luck.

- Carsten

P.S.

For the IDLWAVE manual, go to <http://idlwave.org>. Also, if you want to use IDLWAVE's help system, download the help files from there and follow the instructions in the README file to install them. Basically: Put all the files in a directory and tell Emacs where they are with (again in .emacs)

```
(setq idlwave-help-directory "/full/path/to/helpfiles")
```

I see that you use OroborOSX and XDarwin. That is fine. You may want to consider trying apples X11 at

<http://www.apple.com/macosx/x11/download/>

It is still a beta version but works well, is fast and automatically gives you a window manager which shows all the X11 application windows on the normal desktop. Check out RSI's tech note about running idl with Apple's X11 at

<http://www.rsinc.com/services/techtip.asp?ttid=3444>

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