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Subject: Re: IDL 5.6, MacOSX, IDLWAVE, Xemacs  
Posted by [dbowman](#) on Thu, 16 Jan 2003 19:50:00 GMT  
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Muchos Gracias... That did the trick. I can see that this is going to have a steep learning curve. I'm overflowing with questions, but it's nothing that a few months with the documentation can't solve! :-)

It's still a pity to lose the old built-in editor. It was so much simpler to have everything in one package. I (obviously) make no claims to be a programmer - for me, IDL was the best, fastest way to solve scientific problems without delving into all the complexities of writing and maintaining "real code". Alas, this is the price one pays for relying too heavily on a commercial package - they can change the rules whenever they want... \*sigh\*

Again many hearty thanks for everyone's help.  
-david

Carsten Dominik <[dominik@\\_DROP\\_THIS\\_science.uva.nl](mailto:dominik@_DROP_THIS_science.uva.nl)> wrote in message news:<[qzuiswpjuq9.fsf@sand.science.uva.nl](mailto:qzuiswpjuq9.fsf@sand.science.uva.nl)>...

>>>> >> "DB" == David Bowman <[dbowman@fullerton.edu](mailto: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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