
Subject: Re: idlde: Linux vs. Windows

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Wed, 10 Sep 2003 03:49:25 GMT

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On Tue, 09 Sep 2003 20:10:40 -0700, Craig Markwardt wrote:

> odell@aos.wisc.edu (Chris ODell) writes:

>> So tell me, what is an idl programmer in linux to do? What do you guys

>> do (I'm thinking of Craig Marquardt, Liam Gumley, David Fanning, etc)?

>> All use

>> emacs plus the simple idl command line interface? Or something else?

>

> Hi Chris, I use emacs, but then again I always used emacs. I use

> idlwave for the formatting. Generally I have an emacs window and a

> terminal window side by side: edit in emacs, run and debug in the

> terminal. Nothing fancy.

>

When I started using IDLWAVE, I was in exactly the same boat. I'd always used Emacs, so it was natural to continue doing so. I had also always run IDL in an xterm, and the concept of running it *inside* of Emacs was entirely anathema. A few things changed my mind. It's incredibly natural. I can use all my favorite editing tricks right on the command line. I can grab bits of old commands or output and assemble new commands on the fly. But once you let the IDLWAVE buffers start talking to the IDL Shell, a whole new world of power is opened up. I won't recount all the details, since David has (im)memorialized most of them on his site in one of my posts (looks for something about sliced bread). I will say this: just fire up the shell sometime -- C-c C-s. Use it for a few minutes. Kill it with C-d and go back to your familiar xterm... no big deal, no problems. Everything is still in place. Try it again in a few days. Try the completion... just hit Tab as you go. A few days or weeks later, try getting routine info on a routine as you go (C-c ?). Baby steps.

JD
