
Subject: Auto change window focus (OS X)
Posted by [KM](#) on Tue, 18 Jan 2005 17:04:26 GMT
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Hi Group,

I am wondering if anyone can help me switch window focus programatically, without the keyboard/mouse.

I've always been a bit bothered that the WINDOW procedure takes the focus away from my xterm/emacs window and leaves it on the new window. Usually (Linux window managers) ALT+TAB (or ALT+SHIFT+TAB) fixed it, so it wasn't a big deal.

But now I use Aqua/OS X, and ALT+TAB or CMD+TAB cycles apps, not windows. CMD+` cycles windows, but only forwards, and if I have n X11 windows open (n = 10 to 50; 2 monitors, 8 virtual desktops) it takes a while to get back to n-1. CMD+SHIFT+` doesn't do anything unfortunately, even though SHIFT usually means "cycle backward". This leaves only the mouse to get focus back to the xterm/emacs, and I don't like using the mouse.

So, I would like to change window focus using the shell, not the mouse or keyboard.

I am resigned that if I type the PLOT command (which opens a window) my emacs/xterm will not have the focus. But I have rolled my own winDOH procedure that runs each time I start IDL:

```
PRO WINDOWH, Window_Index, _EXTRA=e
if ( n_elements( Window_Index ) eq 0 ) then Window_Index = 0
; fill entire 2nd monitor
window, Window_Index, xsize=1280, ysize=1002, xpos=1920, ypos=454, _EXTRA=e
; Add a line here to set focus back to *me*
end
```

I would like add a line at the end that returns focus to the calling window.

I have thought of the following methods, but what initial testing I did tells me it is not very easy (for me)

1) Shell escape sequences

Not sure what this even entails, but I have glorped that it could be a solution. Any advice?

2) AppleScript

I can cycle Finder windows, but X11 doesn't have an applescript

dictionary, so I don't think this can work.

3) Apple Universal Access

This allows programatic control of keyboard + mouse. I could fire a mouse click, but that would require me to leave the pointer over the parent. Keyboard control might be able to count the number of X11 windows and CMD+` cycle through them, but I have actually found the cycling to be buggy w/ 2 monitors and virtual desktops. Some X11 windows are skipped. so I don't think this can work.

4) unix shell scripting

xev, xwininfo, etc...

I read some man pages, but have not gotten farther than that yet.

Any advice/help will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

-k.

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