
Subject: Re: idlwave - need some startup help
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Mon, 29 Aug 2005 21:29:16 GMT
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On Mon, 29 Aug 2005 12:18:20 -0700, MA wrote:

> Hello,
> I'm trying to get idlwave to work on my mac (OSX). I'm a complete
> Unix-dummy, and had our systems administrator install it for me. I've also
> never used emacs previously. From the screen shots on the idlwave.org web
> page, I thought I'd find a nice user interface on startup, but so far all
> I get is something that looks like plain emacs. I have GNU emacs 21.2.1 on
> my machine, and idlwave 5.6. When I start a .pro file in emacs, it tells
> me on the bottom line that it found the idlwave module. So the
> installations seems to be okay. Is there a simple way to get the user
> interface to pop up, so I could go from there? I can't even go through the
> idlwave tutorial because I don't know the emacs controls. I can't get
> through the emacs tutorial, because I can't figure out where the Meta key
> is on the mac. I've surfed around a bit and gather that I may have to put
> a couple of lines in my .emacs file or something. Is there a mac person
> out there who wouldn't mind sharing his/her .emacs file? Thanks

Ah yes, starting from scratch. The first thing is to go through the Emacs tutorial: C-h t (which means Control-h followed by t by itself).

The "interface" to IDLWAVE is really just the interface to Emacs, with context-sensitive highlighting, help, completion, and a special *idl* buffer for interacting with the IDL Shell. The only true IDLWAVE-specific interface elements are the buttons in the task bar which you see in the screenshots. These should be on for you by default. Hover over them to see what they do. All of them have keyboard equivalents (i.e. I never use them).

Once you've mastered Emacs (ahem), have a look at the IDLWAVE tutorial: IDLWAVE->Documentation->Info, and then click on the Tutorials, to be led through some of the basic features. IDLWAVE is highly configurable; see the manual for extensive info on all the configuration options, and/or the .emacs linked from idlwave.org for an example config (mine).

There are a few minor issues related to running IDLWAVE under OSX. Most of these relate to non-X11 versions of (X)Emacs, but if you're using an X11 Emacs, you should be fine. One issue is ensuring that "idl" on the command line actually runs idl, so IDLWAVE can run it. I just link /usr/local/bin/idl -> /Applications/rsi/idl/bin/idl to make that happen, but you can also tell IDLWAVE explicitly where IDL is (but just try C-c C-s first to see if it "just works").

The following OSX-specific function can be stuck in your .emacs to allow the context-sensitive HTML help to work in Safari:

```
http://idlwave.org/browse_url_safari.el
```

Good luck!

JD
