
Subject: Re: IDLWAVE: no sympathy for the devil (vi vi vi)

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Mon, 23 Jan 2006 20:23:16 GMT

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On Mon, 23 Jan 2006 10:42:59 -0800, Ed Hyer wrote:

> Hi brilliant people,
>
> I covet IDLWAVE. For instance, I'm tired of typing
>
> if(n_elements(n) gt 0) then begin
>
> But, my transition to Emacs has been rocky. Well, it's perhaps better
> described as "quite smooth but also quite incomplete." I use VIPER,
> which, if you don't know, stands for "Vlper is a Package for Emacs
> Rebels." (http://theory.uwinnipeg.ca/gnu/emacs/viper_toc.html). It
> seems I just can't give up intuitive keystrokes like :.,.+5s/^/; ,
> although I'm sure there is an equivalent stream of gibberish that
> accomplishes that in native Emacs.
>
> I work in two modes: I use Xemacs on my windows box, and I use Xemacs
> on a Linux box through Reflection, using the windows box as a terminal.
>
> So, basically, Windows denies me the ALT key, and Viper denies me the
> ESC key.
>
> Is there any trickery I can employ to get around this?

Welcome to the world of IDLWAVE.

What is it you are attempting to do with ALT that can't be done? M-?
(i.e. context-aware help) is a big one, of course, but most of IDLWAVE
lives under the prefix C-c C-d (which can be changed to one of your
special keys, like the "Hyper" aka Windows key -- see
idlwave-shell-debug-modifiers).

As far as I know, ALT on Windows works correctly as Meta (but steals
use of, e.g. Alt-Tab for switching apps). You can always say "C-h k"
and hit ALT-? key to see what your Emacs thinks that key is.

By the way, you might also like this abbrev I've begun using lately:

```
(idlwave-define-abbrev "fn1" "for i=0,n_elements()-1 do"  
  (idlwave-keyword-abbrev 6))))
```

in your idlwave-mode-hook. Then \fn1 expands to:

```
for i=0,n_elements-1 do
```

with the point between the parens.

JD
