
Subject: Re: Continuing Linux Education
Posted by [David Kastrup](#) on Fri, 10 Feb 2006 23:21:01 GMT
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JD Smith <jdsmith@as.arizona.edu> writes:

> Didn't realize you read our group!

Well, it's been quite a bit of time since I actively used IDL. I am afraid this was a vanity keyword search.

> I apologize for any mis-characterization, but I definitely
> understand your difficulties. I have similar troubles trying to get
> IDLWAVE to play nice within both GNU Emacs and XEmacs, and as a
> result it tends to work best on my platform of choice: GNU Emacs.
> GNU Emacs has it's own flavor of development "lock-in", with the
> result that it is incredibly difficult to keep a single complex
> package up to date on both platforms, even when code
> incompatibilities are not the issue. This is really a natural
> consequence of the ancient schism between these two camps, and
> there's really not much that can be done about it, it seems.

Well, I am of the opinion that it could be dealt with quite better in the XEmacs case. When contacting the developer mailing list about any problem, I most of the time get the impression of far more face-saving instead of actual improvement going on, even if you are prepared to do most of the work yourself.

>> Guffaw. 21.1 would be rather old. 21.4 is the last `_released_`
>> version, but many people nowadays work with a snapshot of what is
>> to become 22.1.
>
> Yes, and perhaps sometime this year we'll have a release of Emacs 22
> in hand! This by the way points out one major advantage XEmacs has
> over Emacs: it decouples its core releases from add-on packages
> (like IDLWAVE), so they can be updated more often than every 4-5
> years.

But they synch the core releases with upstream Emacs quite rarely. They have not even synched most of the stuff in Emacs 21.1 from 5 years ago or so. Stuff like syntax highlighting.

Having more frequent updates to outdated code is not that much of an advantage.

> I have some code I contributed to the CVS tools of GNU Emacs in
> late 2000 that has not yet gone into a shipping Emacs version.

Yes, the current release holdup is a nuisance. 23.1 will be better.

> Thanks for your efforts with AUCTeX. I use it, and the RefTeX
> module of Carsten Dominick (former IDLWAVE maintainer) nearly every
> day.

Ah, I didn't know that Carsten was responsible for idlwave. Thanks
for the heads-up.

--

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