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Subject: Re: Carbon emacs and IDLWAVE  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Mon, 24 Apr 2006 23:55:57 GMT  
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On Mon, 24 Apr 2006 15:16:28 -0700, Brigitte Hesman wrote:

> Hello,  
>  
> I am new to mac systems and have recently acquired an intel mac and am  
> running mac os x 10.4 and I am having some trouble with the emacs  
> program I am running (GNU emacs 22.0.50.1). I have no problem with the  
> IDLWAVE characteristics of the emacs software ... my IDL code looks  
> good (has the proper color coding), the short cuts work as well. My  
> issue is when I go to run idl from emacs. In the IDLWAVE documentation  
> it says that to launch the idl shell type C-c C-s. I do that and idl  
> launches in a separate window (an xterm on x11) but does not appear  
> within a shell in emacs like it does when I run it on a linux system.  
> Then if I continue and type C-c C-d C-c to compile the program it gives  
> the following error:  
> idlwave-shell-send-command: You need to first start an IDL shell with  
> C-c C-s  
>  
> In other words, it does not realize that IDL has already started. I  
> can get around this by just using emacs to do my editing and then use  
> idl separately to compile and run my programs but it is rather  
> cumbersome and I would like to take advantage of the full capabilities  
> of IDLWAVE. Incidentally, this also happens when I use xemacs under  
> x11.  
>  
> Anyone have any ideas how to fix this?

See FAQ #2:

<http://idlwave.org/idlwave.html#TROUBLE>

IDLWAVE essentially just does the equivalent of "type 'idl' at the shell prompt" to load the program, so this has to "do the right thing" in order for it to work. I don't know how your IDLWAVE could be launching an XTerm, but I'd guess that you might have a shell script called "idl" which launches an XTerm and runs IDL inside of it, or something similar. This would of course confuses IDLWAVE, and cause it to shut down the process (which is why it later claims you need to run it). If that's the case, I'd add this to your ~/.emacs file:

```
(setq idlwave-shell-explicit-file-name "/usr/local/rsi/idl/bin/idl")
```

or wherever you put your IDL install.

By the way, if you find you'd like a command to "pull up a quick IDL session", and that's what motivated your xterm popup, you might like to read the hint in this old IDLWAVE announcement:

[http://idlwave.org/announce/announce\\_4.16.txt](http://idlwave.org/announce/announce_4.16.txt)

which describes a way to quickly launch the IDLWAVE shell in a window by itself. It still works great with v6.0.

Another morsel of IDLWAVE news... those of you following Emacs 22 and the gradual build-up to release will be pleased to know that IDLWAVE v6.0 is now integrated into the Emacs CVS and will be included in the new release. A variety of niggling little problems that used to plague IDLWAVE under v21.X are now fully resolved in 22.X, and for me it's by far the best and most stable IDLWAVE environment.

JD

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