
Subject: Re: Mac Cursor

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Tue, 07 Nov 2006 21:27:04 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

On Mon, 06 Nov 2006 22:16:36 -0700, David Fanning wrote:

> Kenneth Bowman writes:

>

>> David, do you use the IDLDE on Macs, or do you run from the

>> command line?

>

> Uh, have you *seen* IDLDE on a Mac!? No, almost everyone

> prefers to run from a command line. :-)

After dealing with Mac-based path peculiarities (Ken, covering the slightly different environment setup is a must for your FAQ site), IDLWAVE in Carbon or X11 Emacs works great.

I would guess most people's IDL OSX path problems arise from running the IDLDE or Emacs+IDLWAVE from the OSX dock, /Applications directory, or some other launcher, after having setup their the environment variable IDL_PATH in .login/.bashrc/.cshrc.

In Linux, starting IDLDE from the window manager works fine, because there is an initial login shell which is loaded "above" the window manager, which reads these shell config files and modifies the global environment. Under OSX, this isn't the case. Things in .cshrc, for instance, will only affect the environment of programs run from the terminal where that shell is running. To modify the global environment, you need to use environment.plist.

The easiest way to modify the IDL_PATH on this plist file is to use the "defaults" command:

```
% mkdir .MacOSX
```

```
% defaults write ~/.MacOSX/environment IDL_PATH "'<IDL_DEFAULT>:>${HOME}/idl'"
```

and then logout and back in again. Please note the nested quotes (necessary because of all the <+: noise). Now IDL_PATH will be set for all processes, whether they are started from the terminal or not. You can always remove it like:

```
% defaults delete ~/.MacOSX/environment IDL_PATH
```

Note that IDL provides its own, separate "preferences" system which can include things like the IDL_PATH. You can interact with this from IDLDE, or even the IDL command line. This would be another option for modifying the IDL_PATH.

JD
