On Mon, 04 Dec 2006 22:16:19 -0500, Richard G. French wrote:

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>
> On 12/4/06 8:54 PM, in article
> slrnen9ka8.1g5.greg.hennessy@localhost.localdomain, "Greg Hennessy"
> <greg.hennessy@localhost.localdomain> wrote:
>
>> On 2006-12-05, JD Smith <jdsmith@as.arizona.edu> wrote:
>>> One of the old acronyms the vi crowd invented as an invective against
>>> Emacs was "Eight Megabytes and Constantly Swapping". Sort of puts
>>> things in perspective.
>>
>> That phrase is a blast from the past. I've been used to utter it a few
>> times myself. And I only know enough vi to edit the makefile to compile
>> emacs. :)
>
>
> I've been stymied several times in trying to get plain emacs (not xemacs)
> running under OSX, but I just tracked down
> http://homepage.mac.com/zenitani/emacs-e.html which has a drag and install
> version (GNU Emacs 22.0.90.1) that seems to work and it has IDLWAVE
> installed. Maybe this time I can actually learn to use this lauded
> interface between IDL and emacs - it will require that I learn emacs first
> (I am a vi fan). Suggestions for easy tutorials?

Just FYI.... Emacs 22 has been a *long* time in coming, and is much
more functional and useful than Emacs 21 in many ways. This has
motivated various groups to roll out CVS pre-release versions, like
this one. There are even version which remap all key bindings to be
more "Mac-like" (see aquamacs.org).

Emacs 22 has at long last recently entered pre-test phase, so an
actual honest-to-goodness release will be coming soon. I'm attempting
to get IDLWAVE as up to date as possible for this release (since it
will be the default version people use for the next ~5 years). For
the first time, Emacs trivially compiles on OSX as either a Carbon
Emacs.app, or normal X11 Emacs (both have pluses/minuses w.r.t. IDL
usage). So, by all means install one of these "itchy trigger finger"
pre-release versions, but just make sure you get the latest "real"
version when it arrives hopefully soon. The magic version of IDLWAVE
to look for is 6.1_em22.

Easiest way to get going with Emacs is Help->Emacs Tutorial, and note that in most Emacs mappings Meta == Apple (which is unfortunately different from the default Terminal, where Meta == Option key). Also feel free to ignore whatever seems weird and use whatever is easiest. For instance, C-n for "down one line" is probably awkward for most people... just use the down arrow, etc.

For the record, I actually prefer the X11 version of Emacs 22 on OSX, because:

1. IDL is already running in X11, so you can switch back and forth using focus-follow-mouse (if you like that kind of thing, and have set it up).

2. On my Powerbook, I don't often have my external mouse handy, but with X11, I can emulate 3-button mice using Apple and Option click (and turn this off when I have my real bluetooth mouse available). This isn't crucial, but many things in Emacs like other clicks (middle-click to paste, right-click on IDL breakpoint lines to change options, etc.).

3. I can make Option -> Meta (for uniformity) and Apple -> Super, so I can save keystrokes by mapping IDLWAVE commands like C-c C-d C-c to s-c (Super-c, aka Apple-c), etc. In ~/.emacs:

 (setq idlwave-shell-debug-modifiers '(super))

On the other hand, Carbon Emacs has nicely anti-aliased fonts and benefits from running its own applications (can hide it, use application-window Expose, etc.).

JD