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Subject: Re: IDLWAVE (Mac) launching IDL as PPC rather than Intel  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Sat, 09 Dec 2006 00:27:28 GMT  
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On Fri, 08 Dec 2006 16:07:23 -0800, Anthony wrote:

> JD Smith wrote:  
>> That's a first (no Intel Mac here). Do you happen to have more than one  
>> IDL 6.3 version installed? My guess is that from the terminal you are  
>> running one version, and from IDLWAVE another, likely do to differences  
>> in the environment (e.g. search path) between them.  
>  
> Okay, I have 6.3 and 6.1 installed, and I've found the problem and a  
> (messy) solution.  
>  
> IDLWAVE appears to call IDL from the idl\_6.1 folder, rather than from  
> \$IDL\_DIR or ...rsi/idl, both of which point to idl\_6.3. This means that  
> idl\_6.1/bin/idl is executed, which assumes that if OS="darwin" then  
> ARCH=".ppc". It then calls \$IDL\_DIR/bin/bin.\$OS\$ARCH, i.e., 6.3 PPC  
> version.

IDLWAVE doesn't specifically call any version of IDL (unless you've configured it that way -- look for 'idlwave-shell-explicit-filename' in your .emacs). It calls the version that is first on the path -- i.e. the version that the shell would find if you typed "idl".

It sounds very much to me like a) you have idl\_6.1 first on your search path (possibly just inside of Emacs), and b) you have IDL\_DIR pointed to idl\_6.3. This sort of works, but only because you get lucky and the 6.1 start script (almost) works with 6.3. Are you certain you don't get this same behavior right in the Terminal typing "idl"? If so, check for explicit symlinks to idl\_6.1. It's also possible you have an outdated IDL\_DIR explicitly set for Emacs (e.g. via environment.plist), but not the terminal. In Emacs try M-x getenv IDL\_DIR, and you might check PATH while there as well.

If you load Emacs from the shell, it should launch the exact same IDL version that you get in the shell typing "idl". Try that to check. If your Emacs is launched from somewhere else (e.g. it's Carbon Emacs loaded from the Dock, etc.), then you need to ensure the pertinent environment is the same between terminal and global environment. Search this group for environment.plist, which is the way to do that. If all else fails, set explicit-filename to point right to rsi/idl/bin/idl.

A recommendation for the future: always redirect everything through a symlink /path/to/rsi/idl, which points to the "current version" directory, e.g. idl\_6.3. Never explicitly mention any other path in

any way, except perhaps by linking, e.g. idl\_6.1 to  
/path/to/rsi/idl\_6.1/bin/idl (so you can run old versions as a test).  
If you do this, there will never be occasion for IDL versions to get  
confused with each other.

JD

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