
Subject: Re: Tabs in Workbench

Posted by [Paul Van Delst\[1\]](#) on Tue, 04 Mar 2008 15:00:10 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> Folks,
>
> In my on-going quest to get four spaces when I hit a TAB
> in the IDL Workbench, I report some new information.
> Thanks to Paul Krummel, I am now aware that there are
> *two* places where you have set this up for yourself.

Good lord, why are you using tabs?

Doesn't the workbench editor do auto indent? Or is the key-repeat too slow in eclipse? Or...?

FWIW, I'm biased against the tab for two reasons:

1) because it is not part of the Fortran character set and thus, if used in Fortran95 code, make the code illegal (in a strict sense).
2) I use makefiles a lot. People who can commiserate understand the significance of tabs in that context. (grr)

If I get source code with tabs in it, I either send it back or use "tr" to scrub the tabs out. In the latter case, tab-cleaning generally makes the code look horrendously higgeldy-piggeled.

cheers,

paulv

>
> The first is under Preferences->General->Editors->Text Editors
> and the second is under Preferences->IDL->Editor. I had a
> mismatch between the number of spaces for tabs in those
> two places. I think that has been *part* of the problem.
>
> Alas, this doesn't solve the problem totally, either.
> For example, with the new setup consistent as to number
> of spaces for tabs, I want to edit a CASE statement. It
> looks like this:
>
> CASE mapIndex OF
> 0: Map_Set,
> 1: Map_Set, ...
> ENDCASE
>
> The CASE and ENDCASE are, in this instance, indented

> three spaces, and the cases are indented three more
> spaces. (This code was written back in my "3-space"
> youth.)
>
> I open up a new line between the two cases, and put
> my cursor on the first character in the new open line.
> If I hit a TAB now, I move over to the place where
> I'm aligned with the numbers 0 and 1. That is six
> spaces. (One might argue that this is where I want
> to be, but leave that for a moment.) The next TAB
> moves me two spaces. (To align with 8?) All subsequent
> TABs now move me four spaces at a time.
>
> Now, I admit this makes slightly more sense to me than
> what I **used** to see, when the number of spaces appeared
> to be totally arbitrary, but it is still **not** what I
> want, which is four goddamn spaces when I hit a TAB.
>
> If I sound grumpy it's just because I never expected
> my beloved IDL to turn into Microsoft Word. :-(
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>
