
Subject: Mac editors / development environment
Posted by [Doug Rowland](#) on Mon, 30 Sep 2002 23:15:50 GMT
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I'm starting a new IDL project on Mac OS X and was wondering if anyone can help me with suggestions for a good development environment / editor.

The caveat handed down by my employer:

No "weird"/*NIX software. Make it mainstream. Don't worry about spending a little money.

My background is mostly amateur software development, using vi and IDL on Solaris.

I have a copy of BBEdit Lite, but haven't found a language module.

Mostly, I want a "mainstream" editor that knows about IDL, at least as far as syntax coloring. I am also looking for a "mainstream" version control / documentation system. My ideal would be something like Project Builder that knows about IDL.

Thanks.

Doug

--

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Subject: Re: Mac editors / development environment
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 01 Oct 2002 15:57:59 GMT
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JD Smith (jdsmith@as.arizona.edu) writes:

> I'll just chime in like a dully familiar choral refrain in a drawn out
> opera: IDLWAVE for Emacs might just be what you're looking for
> (idlwave.org).

Speaking as someone who is probably too old to learn EMACS now (and never frustrated enough with the ol' IDLDE editor to justify the couple of weeks it might take to learn it when I was younger and more open to good suggestions), I would say that if I was mentoring a young colleague that I wouldn't let him near a computer until he learned EMACS (and maybe VI if I was feeling especially ornery).

Cheers,

David

P.S. Let's just say that in my NEXT life, I'm going to learn EMACS and John Madden's NFL Football before I'm old enough to shave. That way I'll be pretty much set to be a successful businessman and father. :-)

--

David W. Fanning, Ph.D.

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Toll-Free IDL Book Orders: 1-888-461-0155

Subject: Re: Mac editors / development environment
Posted by [thompson](#) on Tue, 01 Oct 2002 16:01:02 GMT
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Doug Rowland <rowland@fields.space.umn.edu> writes:

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- > far as syntax coloring. I am also looking for a "mainstream" version
- > control / documentation system. My ideal would be something like

> Project Builder that knows about IDL.

> Thanks.

> Doug

I suggest Emacs, which has an IDL mode available for it. In fact, doesn't a version of Emacs ship with Mac OS X? I believe there's also an Aqua version out there. I don't know what your boss thinks is "weird" or "mainstream", but Emacs is pretty mainstream in the Unix world, and runs on every platform I've encountered.

William Thompson

Subject: Re: Mac editors / development environment
Posted by [Craig Markwardt](#) on Wed, 02 Oct 2002 02:36:36 GMT
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David Fanning <david@dfanning.com> writes:

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> set to be a successful businessman and father. :-)

Hi David--

While I am by no means an Emacs neophyte, I have seen many beginners get along fine in Emacs using just the menus. I must (sheepishly) admit that I mostly use the idlwave mode for the indentation capabilities, which is highly valuable in and of itself. I am pretty adept at Emacs but I admit that the Control Escape Doodah sequences can be daunting.

Craig

--

Craig B. Markwardt, Ph.D. EMAIL: craigmnet@cow.physics.wisc.edu
Astrophysics, IDL, Finance, Derivatives | Remove "net" for better response

Subject: Re: Mac editors / development environment

Doug Rowland wrote:

>
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> My background is mostly amateur software development, using vi and IDL
> on Solaris.
> [snip]...
> Mostly, I want a "mainstream" editor that knows about IDL, at least as
> far as syntax coloring.

Hello Doug,

If you are a vi user you should love vim and its GUI version, gvim.
A syntax file to color code IDL code in gvim is available called idlang.vim.
When I first installed vim/gvim I believe I had to go looking for an IDL
syntax file, but I gather from the current FAQ that idlang.vim is now
included in the distribution (with ~200 other syntax files). If you get
vim/gvim and it doesn't have idlang.vim, let me know and I'll throw a copy
over the wall to you. Vim/gvim are also on the "Companion" (freeware) CD
in the Solaris distribution. I would think these would qualify as "mainstream"
because they work just like vi, only better.

See:

<http://www.vim.org/>

Mac versions aren't on the Vim ftp site, but pointers to OSX versions here:

<http://www.vim.org/download.php#mac>

--gary

Design Matrix

<http://www.designmatrix.com/>

(IDL pages: <http://www.designmatrix.com/services/IDL>)
