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Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X  
Posted by [Dick Jackson](#) on Tue, 03 Dec 2002 19:04:52 GMT

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"psisquared" <psisquared01@netscape.net> wrote in message  
news:c34328d6.0212022253.2ded13e0@posting.google.com...  
> Hello! I've been using the IDL editor for a few years on PCs/Macs and  
> am now trying to get setup on Mac OS X with Emacs, IDLWAVE and IDL 5.6  
> (I tried the IDLDE but it doesn't seem very good compared to what I'm  
> used to on the PC/Classic Mac--where's the syntax highlighting?). I'm  
> pretty new to Unix and very new to Emacs so although I've been able to  
> learn alot along the way solving the problems I've come across this  
> one has me stumped :( I'm going through the IDLWAVE in a Nutshell  
> document and in the beginning there is reference to using Meta-Tab  
> after a PLOT call in order to see possible keywords. When I hit  
> Meta-Tab, I get the error 'No tags table loaded try M-x  
> visit-tags-table'.

I had trouble with M-Tab under Windows 2000 (conflict with Windows'  
change-application hotkey), so I added this to my .emacs file to make  
C-M-Tab do the completion:

```
(add-hook 'idlwave-mode-hook  
  '(lambda ()  
    (define-key idlwave-mode-map  
      [(control meta tab)] 'idlwave-complete)  
    ))
```

Hope this helps you out!

Cheers,

--

-Dick

Dick Jackson / dick@d-jackson.com  
D-Jackson Software Consulting / http://www.d-jackson.com  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada / +1-403-242-7398 / Fax: 241-7392

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Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X  
Posted by [psisquared](#) on Tue, 03 Dec 2002 20:01:03 GMT

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In <of7H9.98364\$ea.1671420@news2.calgary.shaw.ca> Dick Jackson wrote:

> From: "Dick Jackson" <dick@d-jackson.com>  
> Newsgroups: comp.lang.idl-pvwave  
> Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X  
> Date: Tue, 03 Dec 2002 19:04:52 GMT

> Organization: Shaw Residential Internet  
>  
> I had trouble with M-Tab under Windows 2000 (conflict with Windows'  
> change-application hotkey), so I added this to my .emacs file to make  
> C-M-Tab do the completion:  
>  
> (add-hook 'idlwave-mode-hook  
> '(lambda ()  
> (define-key idlwave-mode-map  
> [(control meta tab)] 'idlwave-complete)  
> ))  
>  
> Hope this helps you out!  
>  
> Cheers,  
> --  
> -Dick  
>  
> Dick Jackson / dick@d-jackson.com  
> D-Jackson Software Consulting / http://www.d-jackson.com  
> Calgary, Alberta, Canada / +1-403-242-7398 / Fax: 241-7392  
>  
>  
>

Dick,  
Thanks for the tip! It's weird, I still get 'No tags table loaded try M-x visit-tags-table' with your hook in my .emacs file, but if I change it to (control meta q), it works! Something about emacs/idlwave doesn't like my tab key. At least now I can get completions without using the menu!  
-Rob

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Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Wed, 04 Dec 2002 04:13:56 GMT  
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On Mon, 02 Dec 2002 23:53:05 -0700, psisquared wrote:

> Hello! I've been using the IDL editor for a few years on PCs/Macs and am  
> now trying to get setup on Mac OS X with Emacs, IDLWAVE and IDL 5.6 (I  
> tried the IDLDE but it doesn't seem very good compared to what I'm used  
> to on the PC/Classic Mac--where's the syntax highlighting?). I'm pretty  
> new to Unix and very new to Emacs so although I've been able to learn  
> alot along the way solving the problems I've come across this one has me  
> stumped :( I'm going through the IDLWAVE in a Nutshell document and in  
> the beginning there is reference to using Meta-Tab after a PLOT call in

> order to see possible keywords. When I hit Meta-Tab, I get the error 'No  
> tags table loaded try M-x visit-tags-table'.  
>  
> I went so far as to create a tags table with IDLTAGS --etags, but I  
> don't think that was the right direction...now Meta-Tab completes plot  
> and produces plot\_wfield. IDLWAVE is running--IDLWAVE and DEBUG menus  
> show up, and I can start the IDL shell in EMacs with C-c C-s. I just saw  
> that I can get completion to work by selecting Completion from the  
> IDLWAVE menu that list shortcut (<M-tab>) In fact, my meta key  
> definitely works too, cause I used it in the Emacs tutorial and I used  
> it in IDLWAVE mode to start the IDLDE(Meta-s). It just refuses to work  
> for M-tab for IDLWAVE..argh.  
>  
> In case it helps, here's some more info: I'm running OS X 10.2.2, the OS  
> X emacs 21.3.50, and installed IDLWAVE 4.1.6 from idlwave.org into  
> /usr/share/emacs/site-lisp which is in my Emacs load-path variable. I  
> removed the 4.1.5 version that came with my Emacs install. I read a  
> previous thread that was similar to my problem that turned out to be a  
> conflict with Linux Alt-tab, but that doesn't seem to be my problem, but  
> maybe it is similar since my original Meta-key was the Apple(command)  
> key, which is used for Apple-tab application switching in OS X. I  
> changed the meta key from Apple to Option(alt) by setting the command  
> below in my .emacs file.  
>  
> And, here's my .emacs file:  
> (if (equal default-directory "/") (setq default-directory "~")) (setq  
> mac-command-key-is-meta nil)  
> (autoload 'idlwave-mode "idlwave" "IDLWAVE Mode" t) (autoload  
> 'idlwave-shell "idlw-shell" "IDLWAVE Shell" t) (setq auto-mode-alist  
> (cons '("\\.pro\\\\" . idlwave-mode) auto-mode-alist)) (setq  
> idlwave-help-directory "/usr/share/emacs/site-lisp") (add-hook  
> 'idlwave-mode-hook 'turn-on-font-lock)  
>  
> From what I've read so far about IDLWAVE it seems like a great  
> environment so I'd really like to get this working fully. Not sure what  
> else isn't going to work because of this problem so I prefer to fix  
> problems before moving on. Sorry this is kind of long, but it just  
> scratches the surface of what I've tried so far! Any fixes, tips,  
> suggestions? TIA.

Try this:

C-h k M-Tab

and tell us what you find. It should look something like:

M-tab runs the command idlwave-complete  
which is an interactive compiled Lisp function in `idlwave'.

(idlwave-complete &optional ARG MODULE CLASS)

Instead, it will probably say a different key/function, probably one with the word "tags" in it ;)

The issue is likely related to the fact the ESC is another viable equivalent for Meta, and etags uses a large ESC map. Try ESC Tab (escape \*followed by\* Tab) in the same way and report that too.

Good luck with OSX+IDLWAVE -- you're one of the first few I've heard trying it.

JD

P.S. I find it highly entertaining that new users are beginning to see IDLWAVE as an integral part of the IDL environment ;).

---

Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X  
Posted by [psisquared](#) on Wed, 04 Dec 2002 05:58:10 GMT  
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In <pan.2002.12.04.04.13.56.540374.19560@as.arizona.edu> JD Smith wrote:

> From: JD Smith <jdsmith@as.arizona.edu>

> Newsgroups: comp.lang.idl-pvwave

> Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X

> Date: Tue, 03 Dec 2002 21:13:56 -0700

> Organization: The University of Arizona

>

> On Mon, 02 Dec 2002 23:53:05 -0700, psisquared wrote:

>

>> Hello! I've been using the IDL editor for a few years on PCs/Macs and  
>> am now trying to get setup on Mac OS X with Emacs, IDLWAVE and IDL 5.  
>> 6 (I tried the IDLDE but it doesn't seem very good compared to what  
>> I'm used to on the PC/Classic Mac--where's the syntax highlighting?).  
>> I'm pretty new to Unix and very new to Emacs so although I've been  
>> able to learn alot along the way solving the problems I've come  
>> across this one has me stumped :( I'm going through the IDLWAVE in a  
>> Nutshell document and in the beginning there is reference to using  
>> Meta-Tab after a PLOT call in order to see possible keywords. When I  
>> hit Meta-Tab, I get the error 'No tags table loaded try M-x visit-  
>> tags-table'. I went so far as to create a tags table with IDLTAGS --  
>> etags, but I don't think that was the right direction...now Meta-Tab  
>> completes plot and produces plot\_wfield. IDLWAVE is running--IDLWAVE  
>> and DEBUG menus show up, and I can start the IDL shell in EMacs with  
>> C-c C-s. I just saw that I can get completion to work by selecting  
>> Completion from the IDLWAVE menu that list shortcut (<M-tab>) In fact,  
>> my meta key definitely works too, cause I used it in the Emacs

>> tutorial and I used it in IDLWAVE mode to start the IDLDE(Meta-s). It  
>> just refuses to work for M-tab for IDLWAVE..argh. In case it helps,  
>> here's some more info: I'm running OS X 10.2.2, the OS X emacs 21.3.  
>> 50, and installed IDLWAVE 4.1.6 from idlwave.org into /usr/share/  
>> emacs/site-lisp which is in my Emacs load-path variable. I removed  
>> the 4.1.5 version that came with my Emacs install. I read a previous  
>> thread that was similar to my problem that turned out to be a  
>> conflict with Linux Alt-tab, but that doesn't seem to be my problem,  
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>> command) key, which is used for Apple-tab application switching in OS  
>> X. I changed the meta key from Apple to Option(alt) by setting the  
>> command below in my .emacs file. And, here's my .emacs file: (if (  
>> equal default-directory "/") (setq default-directory "~/") (setq mac-  
>> command-key-is-meta nil) (autoload 'idlwave-mode "idlwave" "IDLWAVE  
>> Mode" t) (autoload 'idlwave-shell "idlw-shell" "IDLWAVE Shell" t) (  
>>setq auto-mode-alist (cons '("\\.pro\\\\" . idlwave-mode) auto-mode-  
>>alist)) (setq idlwave-help-directory "/usr/share/emacs/site-lisp") (  
>>add-hook 'idlwave-mode-hook 'turn-on-font-lock) From what I've read  
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>> work because of this problem so I prefer to fix problems before  
>> moving on. Sorry this is kind of long, but it just scratches the  
>> surface of what I've tried so far! Any fixes, tips, suggestions? TIA.

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> Try this:

>

> C-h k M-Tab

>

> and tell us what you find. It should look something like:

>

> M-tab runs the command idlwave-complete

> which is an interactive compiled Lisp function in `idlwave'.

> (idlwave-complete &optional ARG MODULE CLASS)

>

> Instead, it will probably say a different key/function, probably one

> with the word "tags" in it ;)

>

> The issue is likely related to the fact the ESC is another viable

> equivalent for Meta, and etags uses a large ESC map. Try ESC Tab (

> escape followed by Tab) in the same way and report that too.

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> Good luck with OSX+IDLWAVE -- you're one of the first few I've heard

> trying it.

>

> JD

>

> P.S. I find it highly entertaining that new users are beginning to see

> IDLWAVE as an integral part of the IDL environment ;).

Thanks for the info JD.  
C-h k M-tab gives me:  
M-TAB runs the command complete-symbol  
which is an interactive  
compiled Lisp function in `bindings'.  
It is bound to M-TAB.  
(complete-  
symbol ARG)

Perform tags completion on the text around point.

Completes to the set of names listed in the current tags table.  
The  
string to complete is chosen in the same way as the default  
for M-. (which see).

With a prefix argument, this command does completion  
within  
the collection of symbols listed in the index of the manual for  
the  
language you are using.

C-h k Esc Tab gives the same message..'Esc Tab runs the command complete-symbol'...

After Dick's suggestion I defined M-q for idlwave-complete and that seems to have worked. Any idea if that will interfere with any other commands in IDLWAVE or Emacs(I'm very new to this)? Perhaps there's a better alternative I should get used to. For some reason Tab won't play nice for me...oh well.

With regards to OS X...it's definitely been fun to tinker with all of this...unix, xfree86, emacs, etc. is a whole new computing world for me. I'm sure I'll have lots more questions so I definitely appreciate the help! My company just happened to still have a couple of Mac licenses around for IDL that they weren't using anymore so I thought I'd try it out. I didn't quite realize IDL ran through an X-window environment on OS X 8-)

I see your email address is from U of A. I assume your in Tucson...nice rain we've been getting, huh :)

Thanks again!  
-Rob

Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Thu, 05 Dec 2002 02:33:26 GMT

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On Tue, 03 Dec 2002 22:58:10 -0700, psisquared wrote:

> In <pan.2002.12.04.04.13.56.540374.19560@as.arizona.edu> JD Smith wrote:

>> From: JD Smith <jdsmith@as.arizona.edu> Newsgroups:

>> comp.lang.idl-pvwave

>> Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X Date: Tue,

>> 03 Dec 2002 21:13:56 -0700 Organization: The University of Arizona

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>>> Completion from the IDLWAVE menu that list shortcut (<M-tab>) In fact,

>>> my meta key definitely works too, cause I used it in the Emacs

>>> tutorial and I used it in IDLWAVE mode to start the IDLDE(Meta-s). It

>>> just refuses to work for M-tab for IDLWAVE..argh. In case it helps,

>>> here's some more info: I'm running OS X 10.2.2, the OS X emacs 21.3.

>>> 50, and installed IDLWAVE 4.1.6 from idlwave.org into /usr/share/

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>>> with Linux Alt-tab, but that doesn't seem to be my problem, but maybe

>>> it is similar since my original Meta-key was the Apple( command) key,

>>> which is used for Apple-tab application switching in OS X. I changed

>>> the meta key from Apple to Option(alt) by setting the command below in

>>> my .emacs file. And, here's my .emacs file: (if ( equal

>>> default-directory "/" ) (setq default-directory "~/") (setq mac-

>>> command-key-is-meta nil) (autoload 'idlwave-mode "idlwave" "IDLWAVE

>>> Mode" t) (autoload 'idlwave-shell "idlw-shell" "IDLWAVE Shell" t) (

>>> setq auto-mode-alist (cons '("\.pro\\"" . idlwave-mode) auto-mode-

>>> alist)) (setq idlwave-help-directory "/usr/share/emacs/site-lisp") (

>>> add-hook 'idlwave-mode-hook 'turn-on-font-lock) From what I've read

>>> so far about IDLWAVE it seems like a great environment so I'd really  
>>> like to get this working fully. Not sure what else isn't going to work  
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>>> Sorry this is kind of long, but it just scratches the surface of what  
>>> I've tried so far! Any fixes, tips, suggestions? TIA.

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>> Try this:

>>

>> C-h k M-Tab

>>

>> and tell us what you find. It should look something like:

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>> M-tab runs the command `idlwave-complete`

>> which is an interactive compiled Lisp function in ``idlwave'`.

>> (`idlwave-complete` &optional ARG MODULE CLASS)

>>

>> Instead, it will probably say a different key/function, probably one

>> with the word "tags" in it ;)

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>> escape followed by Tab) in the same way and report that too.

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>> Good luck with OSX+IDLWAVE -- you're one of the first few I've heard

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> Thanks for the info JD.

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> It is bound to M-TAB.

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> for M-. (

> which see).

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- > C-h k Esc Tab gives the same message..'Esc Tab runs the command
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- > After Dick's suggestion I defined M-q for idlwave-complete and that
- > seems to have worked. Any idea if that will interfere with any other
- > commands in IDLWAVE or Emacs(I'm very new to this)? Perhaps there's a
- > better alternative I should get used to. For some reason Tab won't play
- > nice for me...oh well.

That will mess up fill paragraph, which works wonders in long comments.  
and even allows hanging comments like:

```

;=====
=====
; SetProperty - Set properties for tvDraw objects. Use NO_RESIZE to
;           display a new image using the same offset and zoom,
;           etc. (unless we can't). Otherwise, these are reset.
;=====
=====

```

- > I didn't quite realize IDL ran through an X-window environment on
- > OS X 8-)

You're certainly not the first to be surprised.

- >
- > I see your email address is from U of A. I assume your in Tucson...nice
- > rain we've been getting, huh :)

Yes indeed. My visiting family from back east thought it was a sick  
joke though.

JD

---

Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X  
Posted by [Carsten Dominik](#) on Fri, 06 Dec 2002 08:31:22 GMT  
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>>>> > "p" == psigned01 <psigned01@netscape.net> writes:  
To: psigned01@netscape.net (psigned)  
Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X

References: <c34328d6.0212022253.2ded13e0@posting.google.com>  
From: Carsten Dominik <dominik@\_DROP\_THIS\_science.uva.nl>  
--text follows this line--

>>>> > "p" == psisquared01 <psisquared01@netscape.net> writes:

[... Meta-TAB problem with IDLWAVE on Mac OSX ...]

There are several issues here. If you are not interested in the details, just jump to point 4.

1. The carbonized Emacs uses the Apple Command key as a Meta key. I.e., in order to press M-q for example, you would hold down the command key while pressing q. This works for most key combinations, but not for M-TAB. M-TAB (really, Command-TAB) is captured by the operating system very early and is used to switch applications in the Dock. So M-TAB never reaches the Emacs application!
2. There is a classic alternative on Emacs. Instead of holding down the Meta key, one can also press (and release) ESC and then press the wanted key. So ESC TAB is an alternative to M-TAB. Most of the time these two are equivalent, so assigning an Emacs command to M-TAB will make it work with both versions. For example:

```
(define-key global-map [(meta ?q)]  
  (lambda () (interactive)  
    (message "yes")))
```

will print "yes" in the echo area if you press M-q (i.e. Command-q on the Mac) or ESC q.

3. However, the TAB key is different. Binding to M-TAB will not always assign something to ESC-TAB as well - this seems to be system dependent and has to do with the internal representation of key events.
4. To make a long story short: On the Mac, you cannot have IDLWAVE completion on M-TAB (i.e. Command-TAB). However, the following will assign idlwave-complete to ESC TAB:

```
(add-hook 'idlwave-mode-hook  
  (lambda ()  
    (define-key idlwave-mode-map "\M-\C-i" 'idlwave-complete)))
```

JD, maybe you should just add this as an additional binding.

Hope this helps.

- Carsten

--

Carsten Dominik <dominik@astro.uva.nl> \\_/  
Sterrenkundig Instituut "Anton Pannekoek" |X|  
Kruislaan 403; NL-1098 SJ Amsterdam /| | \_ \_ \_/\  
phone +31 (20) 525-7477; FAX +31 (20) 525-7484 \_|o|\_/\_/~\\_\_/\_/ ~~~

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Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X  
Posted by [Carsten Dominik](#) on Fri, 06 Dec 2002 13:05:12 GMT  
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>>>> > "CD" == Carsten Dominik <dominik@\_DROP\_THIS\_science.uva.nl> writes:

CD> 4. To make a long story short: On the Mac, you cannot have IDLWAVE  
CD> completion on M-TAB (i.e. Command-TAB). However, the following  
CD> will assign idlwave-complete to ESC TAB:

```
CD> (add-hook 'idlwave-mode-hook  
CD> (lambda ()  
CD> (define-key idlwave-mode-map "\M-\C-i" 'idlwave-complete)))
```

Actually, I did some more checking. If you use option as meta by setting

```
(setq mac-command-key-is-meta nil)
```

then the above binding actually also assigns completion of Opt-TAB, which is what the original poster wanted.

- Carsten

---

---

Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X  
Posted by [psisquared](#) on Fri, 06 Dec 2002 19:27:20 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

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In <qzuisy7wb5j.fsf@sand.science.uva.nl> Carsten Dominik wrote:

>>>> >> "CD" == Carsten Dominik <dominik@\_DROP\_THIS\_science.uva.nl>  
>>>> >> writes:

>

> CD> 4. To make a long story short: On the Mac, you cannot have IDLWAVE  
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> Actually, I did some more checking. If you use option as meta by
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>
> (setq mac-command-key-is-meta nil)
>
> then the above binding actually also assigns completion of Opt-TAB,
> which is what the original poster wanted.
>
> - Carsten
>
```

Thanks! Sounds like it's working for you. Maybe someone can tell me what I'm doing wrong. I enter in the following into my .emacs:

```
;; Use the option key for META
(setq mac-command-key-is-meta nil)
:: :: Bind idlwave-complete to ESC TAB, which also works for Meta-Tab when
;; Meta is set to Option
(add-hook 'idlwave-mode-hook
(lambda ()
(define-key idlwave-mode-map "\M-\C-i" 'idlwave-complete)))
```

The option key part definitely works because I've been using that for a while. When I start up Emacs I get the following error:

An error has occurred while loading `~/Users/rcohen/.emacs':

Symbol's  
value as variable is void: Bind

To ensure normal operation, you should investigate the cause of the error in your initialization file and remove it. Start Emacs with the `--debug-init' option to view a complete error backtrace

Is there a syntax error someone sees in the binding above to idlwave-complete?

TIA,  
Rob

---

---

Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X  
Posted by [Jeff Guerber](#) on Fri, 06 Dec 2002 20:39:16 GMT  
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On Fri, 6 Dec 2002, psisquared wrote:

```
> Thanks! Sounds like it's working for you. Maybe someone can tell me what
> I'm doing wrong. I enter in the following into my .emacs:
> ;; Use the option key for META
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> :: :: Bind idlwave-complete to ESC TAB, which also works for Meta-Tab when
  ^  ^
> ;; Meta is set to Option
> (add-hook 'idlwave-mode-hook
> (lambda ()
> (define-key idlwave-mode-map "\M-\C-i" 'idlwave-complete)))
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> The option key part definitely works because I've been using that for a
> while. When I start up Emacs I get the following error:
> An error has occurred while loading `~/Users/rcohen/.emacs':
>
> Symbol's value as variable is void: Bind
> [...]
> Is there a syntax error someone sees in the binding above to idlwave-
> complete?
```

Perhaps the fact that the line that reads "Bind idlwave-complete to ESC TAB...", apparently intended as a comment, has with colons (":") instead of semicolons (";")?

Jeff Guerber

---

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Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X  
Posted by [psisquared](#) on Fri, 06 Dec 2002 20:58:55 GMT  
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In <Pine.GHP.4.32.0212061530240.7774-100000@icesat2.gsfc.nasa.gov> Jeff Guerber wrote:

```
> On Fri, 6 Dec 2002, psisquared wrote:
>
>> Thanks! Sounds like it's working for you. Maybe someone can tell me
>> what I'm doing wrong. I enter in the following into my .emacs: ;;
>> Use the option key for META (setq mac-command-key-is-meta nil)
>> :: :: Bind idlwave-complete to ESC TAB, which also works for Meta-
>> :: :: Tab when
>  ^  ^
>> ;; Meta is set to Option
```

```
>> (add-hook 'idlwave-mode-hook
>> (lambda ()
>> (define-key idlwave-mode-map "\M-\C-i" 'idlwave-complete)))
>>
>> The option key part definitely works because I've been using that for
>> a while. When I start up Emacs I get the following error: An error
>> has occurred while loading `/Users/rcohen/.emacs':
>>
>> Symbol's value as variable is void: Bind
>> [...]
>> Is there a syntax error someone sees in the binding above to idlwave-
>> complete?
>
> Perhaps the fact that the line that reads "Bind idlwave-complete to
> ESC TAB...", apparently intended as a comment, has with colons (":")
> instead of semicolons (";")?
>
> Jeff Guerber
>
>
```

Oops. Yep, that was it. Sorry, when you're still very new to things it's easy to assume there is some fundamental problem rather than a silly typo. Thanks for pointing it out. Everything seems to now be working with the two additions to my .emacs file above. Meta-tab, with Meta set to Option under OSX now works. Thanks to everyone who helped!

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Subject: Re: New user - can't get Meta-tab to work on OS X  
Posted by [Jeff Guerber](#) on Fri, 06 Dec 2002 21:00:39 GMT  
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On Fri, 6 Dec 2002, Jeff Guerber wrote:

> TAB...", apparently intended as a comment, has with colons (":") instead

Yikes, that's what I get for going back and changing my wording! Make that "has colons". (Was originally "starts with colons".) \*sigh\*

Jeff Guerber