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Subject: Re: IDL and VI ; Color highlighting  
Posted by [Michael Wallace](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2003 19:18:35 GMT  
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> Does anyone know if it is possible to use syntax highlighting while  
> editing IDL files using Vi (or Vim). If so, how does one go about doing it?

Yes, using vim. There may be basic highlighting in vi, but vim is really what you want. To turn on syntax highlighting, you only need to do ':syntax on' (without quotes) from within vim and it should automagically recognize the file type and highlight appropriately. If that doesn't work, try ':cal SetSyn("idlang")' (without quotes) instead.

If that fails too, then you probably don't have the IDL syntax file installed on your system. On my systems, the IDL syntax file is /usr/share/vim/vim??/syntax/idlang.vim where ?? is the version number of vim. If you can't locate the file, just upgrade vim. Not only will you have a better vim, but I know that it comes with the IDL syntax file already in place.

HTH,

Mike W

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Subject: Re: IDL and VI ; Color highlighting  
Posted by [Karthik](#) on Wed, 17 Dec 2003 19:31:55 GMT  
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That did it! 'apt-get install vim' and ':syntax on' solved the problem.  
Thanks, Mike.

Michael Wallace wrote:

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