
Subject: Auto change window focus (OS X)
Posted by [KM](#) on Tue, 18 Jan 2005 17:04:26 GMT
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Hi Group,

I am wondering if anyone can help me switch window focus programatically, without the keyboard/mouse.

I've always been a bit bothered that the WINDOW procedure takes the focus away from my xterm/emacs window and leaves it on the new window. Usually (Linux window managers) ALT+TAB (or ALT+SHIFT+TAB) fixed it, so it wasn't a big deal.

But now I use Aqua/OS X, and ALT+TAB or CMD+TAB cycles apps, not windows. CMD+` cycles windows, but only forwards, and if I have n X11 windows open (n = 10 to 50; 2 monitors, 8 virtual desktops) it takes a while to get back to n-1. CMD+SHIFT+` doesn't do anything unfortunately, even though SHIFT usually means "cycle backward". This leaves only the mouse to get focus back to the xterm/emacs, and I don't like using the mouse.

So, I would like to change window focus using the shell, not the mouse or keyboard.

I am resigned that if I type the PLOT command (which opens a window) my emacs/xterm will not have the focus. But I have rolled my own winDOH procedure that runs each time I start IDL:

```
PRO WINDOWH, Window_Index, _EXTRA=e
if ( n_elements( Window_Index ) eq 0 ) then Window_Index = 0
; fill entire 2nd monitor
window, Window_Index, xsize=1280, ysize=1002, xpos=1920, ypos=454, _EXTRA=e
; Add a line here to set focus back to *me*
end
```

I would like add a line at the end that returns focus to the calling window.

I have thought of the following methods, but what initial testing I did tells me it is not very easy (for me)

1) Shell escape sequences

Not sure what this even entails, but I have glorped that it could be a solution. Any advice?

2) AppleScript

I can cycle Finder windows, but X11 doesn't have an applescript

dictionary, so I don't think this can work.

3) Apple Universal Access

This allows programatic control of keyboard + mouse. I could fire a mouse click, but that would require me to leave the pointer over the parent. Keyboard control might be able to count the number of X11 windows and CMD+` cycle through them, but I have actually found the cycling to be buggy w/ 2 monitors and virtual desktops. Some X11 windows are skipped. so I don't think this can work.

4) unix shell scripting

xev, xwininfo, etc...

I read some man pages, but have not gotten farther than that yet.

Any advice/help will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

-k.

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Subject: Re: Auto change window focus (OS X) [BUG]
Posted by [Ken Mankoff](#) on Tue, 03 May 2005 23:51:06 GMT
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I'm replying to myself in a 4 month old thread, so this might show up correctly in your newsreader.

This is documenting a behavioral change between OS X 10.3.9 and 10.4. It is a (potentially serious) bug, and while I like it, it might cause others trouble. So be careful before you upgrade.

When I type:

IDL> window
from an OS X X11 xterm the IDL plot window does not get the focus.

So far, this is nothing new to those of you using Terminal.app, and is actually the behavior I requested long ago (and below in this email).

But now the window **will not** accept focus, even if I mouse over, click on it, whatever. A WIDGET window does get the focus and behaves correctly.

The problem with this new behavior, is if I type:

IDL> window

IDL> zoom

I now cannot quit the zoom procedure (because it relies on window events (right click) to quit). I have to CTRL+z and then 'kill' my IDL session :(

So beware... any of you that use non-widget window interactive code (CURSOR, ZOOM, etc.) on OS X, you probably don't want to upgrade to 10.4 right now.

Of course, there is the chance this is local to my machine. Can anyone verify this? Is it some strange setting in my .xinit or .Xdefault file?

If this exists on others, what is the procedure for alerting Apple / RSI? I assume this is an Apple bug as I haven't done anything new with IDL between yesterday and today, all I did was upgrade my OS.

-k.

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<http://spacebit.dyndns.org/>

On Tue, 18 Jan 2005, Ken Mankoff wrote:

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>

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Subject: Re: Auto change window focus (OS X) [BUG]
Posted by [Ken Mankoff](#) on Fri, 06 May 2005 19:12:51 GMT
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On Fri, 6 May 2005 baptiste-cecconi@uiowa.edu wrote:

> I have the exact same problem here...

I just did a clean install of 10.4 (format disk, the works, not Archive & Install). I did not install Developer Tools. Then a clean install of IDL 6.1. Nothing else is on the box.

The problem persists, non-widget direct graphics windows will not accept focus. I have tried running X11 in full screen mode, and in thousands and/or millions of colors. All have the same behavior.

3:1. Anyone else?

-k.

Subject: Re: Auto change window focus (OS X) [BUG]

Posted by [Bapts](#) on Fri, 06 May 2005 22:44:44 GMT

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I've been trying IDL 6.0, 6.1 and 6.1.1 and the behaviour is the same for each versions.

Bapts
