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Subject: Re: IDLWAVE and starting a comment on a new line  
Posted by [Dick Jackson](#) on Wed, 10 May 2006 17:45:12 GMT  
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Hi t.,

<newbie16@hotmail.com> wrote in message  
news:1147270176.136145.278620@i40g2000cwc.googlegroups.com.. .  
> Hi Everyone:  
>  
> When using EMACS for FORTRAN, I routinely start a comment by the  
> character sequence: M-;  
>  
> This puts a "C" at the beginning of a line and indents to column 7. I  
> love this feature of EMACS and do it quite automatically now. However,  
> when using the same sequence in IDLWAVE-mode, a ";" is placed in the  
> middle of the line and the comment starts there, when I really want it  
> at the beginning of the line.

Short answer: use ';' instead of ';

More helpful answer:

In IDLWAVE mode you can bring up help for the mode with C-h m (or menu  
IDLWAVE:Documentation:Describe Mode), which says, in part:

Comments are indented as follows:

```
`;;;' Indentation remains unchanged.  
`;;' Indent like the surrounding code  
`; ' Indent to a minimum column.
```

The indentation of comments starting in column 0 is never changed.

Hope this helps!

--  
Cheers,  
--  
-Dick

Dick Jackson / dick@d-jackson.com  
D-Jackson Software Consulting / http://www.d-jackson.com  
Victoria, BC, Canada / +1-250-220-6117

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Subject: Re: IDLWAVE and starting a comment on a new line  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Wed, 10 May 2006 18:03:59 GMT

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On Wed, 10 May 2006 07:09:36 -0700, newbie16 wrote:

> Hi Everyone:  
>  
> Just a quick question here. I routinely use EMACS for editing code and  
> IDLWAVE has been working great for me so far...with one maddening  
> exception.  
>  
> When using EMACS for FORTRAN, I routinely start a comment by the character  
> sequence: M-;  
>  
> This puts a "C" at the beginning of a line and indents to column 7. I  
> love this feature of EMACS and do it quite automatically now. However,  
> when using the same sequence in IDLWAVE-mode, a ";" is placed in the  
> middle of the line and the comment starts there, when I really want it at  
> the beginning of the line.  
>  
> For the last week I've tried fooling around with the various IDLWAVE  
> configuration examples online (here and at IDLWAVE.org), but for the life  
> of me, I can't seem to figure out which line needs to be changed and/or  
> added (or how for that matter). Now, I know this isn't a serious issue  
> but man it drives me nuts, and I finally brokedown today.  
>  
>  
> Does anyone know of a configuration setting I can add to my .emacs file to  
> set the behaviour of the above sequence to what I'm used to?  
>  
> Any pointers in the right direction are appreciated.

I actually didn't know about M-;, thanks.

By default, comments starting with ";" are indented to the right (usually after a line of code), those starting with ";;" are indented to the code indent location, and those starting with ";;;" are not moved at all. Also, any comment starting at the very beginning of the line is left there (regardless of how many semi-colons it starts with).

The best way to get what you want is to set `comment-add' to 1 locally, by adding to your idlwave-mode-hook in .emacs:

```
(add-hook 'idlwave-mode-hook  
  (lambda ()  
    (set (make-local-variable 'comment-add) 1)))
```

In fact, I like this so much I'm adding it to the next version of IDLWAVE. It also affects C-c ; (comment-region -- for the better I

think).

For those of you who want to try M-;, with this fix, on a blank line it indents and puts in ";; ", on a line with code, it moves to the right of the code with a ";". Really quite useful. For the curious, M-; calls `comment-dwim'... "do what I mean" indeed.

Thanks for the suggestion.

JD

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Subject: Re: IDLWAVE and starting a comment on a new line

Posted by [newbie16](#) on Wed, 10 May 2006 19:35:50 GMT

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```
> (add-hook 'idlwave-mode-hook
>   (lambda ()
>     (set (make-local-variable 'comment-add) 1)))
```

Perfect!!! Thanks, JD.

Cheers,

t.

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Subject: Re: IDLWAVE and starting a comment on a new line

Posted by [cgguido](#) on Wed, 10 May 2006 21:54:13 GMT

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I am running xemacs 21.4.15 and idlwave 5.1 and I get a different behaviour:  
on a blank line I get ";" at the beginnig of the line independantly of indentation. What do you think is going on? Feel free to just tell me to upgrade :-)

While we are on the subject, is there a way to associate a key sequence in xemacs to inserting a set string, say ";{{{ " \*\*\*with the appropriate indentation\*\*\* ?

Thanks,  
Gianguido

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Subject: Re: IDLWAVE and starting a comment on a new line

Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Thu, 11 May 2006 02:34:59 GMT

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On Wed, 10 May 2006 14:54:13 -0700, Gianguido Cianci wrote:

- > I am running xemacs 21.4.15 and idlwave 5.1 and I get a different
- > behaviour:
- > on a blank line I get ";" at the beginnig of the line independantly of
- > indentation. What do you think is going on? Feel free to just tell me
- > to upgrade :-)

It only works with the stanza in .emacs that I provided. The next release won't need this, but for now, you must set the "comment-add" parameter.

- > While we are on the subject, is there a way to associate a key sequence
- > in xemacs to inserting a set string, say ";{{{ " \*\*\*with the
- > appropriate indentation\*\*\* ?

Yes, indeed. You might add something like this to your idlwave-mode-hook inside of .emacs:

```
(define-key (current-local-map)
  [f6]
  '(lambda () (interactive)
    (insert ";{{{ " )
    (indent-according-to-mode)))
```

The same pattern can be used to insert anything.

JD

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Subject: Re: IDLWAVE and starting a comment on a new line

Posted by [cgguido](#) on Thu, 11 May 2006 13:05:18 GMT

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Thanks a lot JD!

- > It only works with the stanza in .emacs that I provided. The next release
- > won't need this, but for now, you must set the "comment-add" parameter.

The M-; trick does not work despite the addition of the "command-add" parameter and that's why I am perplexed.

- > Yes, indeed. You might add something like this to your idlwave-mode-hook
- > inside of .emacs:
- >
- > (define-key (current-local-map)

> [f6]  
> '(lambda () (interactive)  
> (insert ";;;")  
> (indent-according-to-mode)))  
>  
> The same pattern can be used to insert anything.

For anyone wanting to try it the define-key trick works great, though it only indents if the cursor is not in column 1. Which I guess is how idlwave indents comments in the first place. In case you're curious, I use ;{{ and ;}} with folding.el to fold IDL code in emacs, pretty nifty.

I realize this is an IDL forum and not an emacs forum but I will give this a shot anyway...

I think the super-uber version of the define-key command above would act slightly differently: it would insert the string ";;;", prepend the relevant comment characters for the current mode and finally indent the whole thing properly. Is *this* possible or am I just asking too much of either xemacs or this fine community?

Many thanks,  
Gianguido

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Subject: Re: IDLWAVE and starting a comment on a new line  
Posted by [JD Smith](#) on Thu, 11 May 2006 19:21:07 GMT  
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On Thu, 11 May 2006 06:05:18 -0700, Gianguido Cianci wrote:

> Thanks a lot JD!  
>  
>> It only works with the stanza in .emacs that I provided. The next release  
>> won't need this, but for now, you must set the "comment-add" parameter.  
>  
> The M-; trick does not work despite the addition of the "command-add"  
> parameter and that's why I am perplexed.

Perhaps you're not setting it correctly in .emacs. Try, in a .pro buffer, C-h v comment-add. It should say something like:

comment-add is a variable defined in `newcomment.el'.  
Its value is 1  
Local in buffer foo.pro; global value is 0

```
>> Yes, indeed. You might add something like this to your idlwave-mode-hook
>> inside of .emacs:
>>
>> (define-key (current-local-map)
>>   [f6]
>>   '(lambda () (interactive)
>>     (insert " ;{{")
>>     (indent-according-to-mode)))
>>
>> The same pattern can be used to insert anything.
>
>
> For anyone wanting to try it the define-key trick works great, though
> it only indents if the cursor is not in column 1. Which I guess is how
> idlwave indents comments in the first place. In case you're curious, I
> use ;{{{ and ;}}} with folding.el to fold IDL code in emacs, pretty
> nifty.
```

This is the correct behavior, since any comment starting at the beginning of the line is not moved when indenting. If you always want it to indent no matter where point is, perhaps inset " ;{{" instead.

By the way, for "folding", the next version of IDLWAVE will support HideShow, which lets you collapse blocks (routine definitions or otherwise) with a few keystrokes. Very useful, and no comment trickery required. A hidden function, for instance, look like:

```
function my_func,arg1,arg2...
```

but contains the full collapsed text. Sometimes I find it useful to collapse (C-c @ C-M-h) everything, and then show a few functions at a time. You can also hide any control block.

```
> I realize this is an IDL forum and not an emacs forum but I will
> give this a shot anyway... I think the super-uber version of the
> define-key command above would act slightly differently: it would
> insert the string "{{" , prepend the relevant comment characters for
> the current mode and finally indent the whole thing properly. Is
> *this* possible or am I just asking too much of either xemacs or
> this fine community?
```

In that case just stick it in the global map.

```
(define-key global-map
  [f6]
  '(lambda () (interactive)
    (insert (concat " " comment-start "{{")))
```

(indent-according-to-mode)))

JD

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