
Subject: Mac Cursor

Posted by [Jeff Hester](#) on Sat, 04 Nov 2006 01:07:43 GMT

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Having just installed IDL 6.3 on a new MacBook Pro running OS X 10.4.8, and having just updated X11, I find that CURSOR refuses to respond to mouse events. Yes, I have tried using keywords instead of the wait parameter. `Cursor,x,y,/down` (or any other flag) hangs the window, and the only way to get out is to kill the window directly. The only way that I can get any information back at all is if I use `cursor,x,y,/nowait`.

Thoughts?

Thanks,
Jeff Hester

PS -- I've been using IDL for 15 years, but have never spent any time in here. Is there a FAQ somewhere so that I can avoid asking (or maybe even answering) repetitive questions? (Yes, I know Fanning's site.)

Subject: Re: Mac Cursor

Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Thu, 09 Nov 2006 14:56:03 GMT

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In article <k-bowman-723A88.20460208112006@news-new.tamu.edu>, "Kenneth P. Bowman" <k-bowman@removethis.tamu.edu> wrote:

> I'm making notes, but I don't guarantee that I'll get it all.

Because this topic is so active, last night I added a separate page to my IDL web site

<http://idl.tamu.edu/mactips.php>

and started with a few simple Mac-related tips.

I will try to get additional topics on here as quickly as I can, starting with emacs and other general tips about setting up an IDL work environment.

If you have suggestions for additional topics, please drop me a line.

JD has summed up some the issues about the Mac user interface well. The bottom line is that it works differently from other windowing systems in several ways. While it is possible to make OS X work more like X-Windows (for example), in the long run it is probably better to become accustomed to, and take advantage of, the Mac way of doing things.

Cheers, Ken Bowman

Subject: Re: Mac Cursor

Posted by [Marshall Perrin](#) on Thu, 09 Nov 2006 16:06:23 GMT

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Edd <eddedmondson@hotmail.com> wrote:

> Paul van Delst <Paul.vanDelst@noaa.gov> wrote:

>> That drives me nuts too. In my linux system window focus follows my mouse. I haven't yet
>> figured out how to get that to work on my Mac (I know it's possible... somehow) and I'll
>> move my mouse to my target window and start typing, only to have it appear in the window I
>> was just "in". Argh.

>

> There are several almost-solutions around, but perhaps the easiest is
> going to be, when you're working with X11 windows, to just go to X11
> in full screen mode with a window manager that does FFM properly.

Hmmm? It's entirely possible to have focus follows mouse behavior in
Apple's regular X11 window manager, quartzwm.

defaults write com.apple.x11 wm_ffm -bool true

defaults write com.apple.x11 wm_click_through -bool true

That will set focus-follows-mouse without autoraise, for all X11 apps.

- Marshall

Subject: Re: Mac Cursor

Posted by [Edd Edmondson](#) on Thu, 09 Nov 2006 16:33:15 GMT

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Marshall Perrin <mperrin+news@serpens.berkeley.edu> wrote:

> Edd <eddedmondson@hotmail.com> wrote:

>> Paul van Delst <Paul.vanDelst@noaa.gov> wrote:

>>> That drives me nuts too. In my linux system window focus follows my mouse. I haven't yet
>>> figured out how to get that to work on my Mac (I know it's possible... somehow) and I'll
>>> move my mouse to my target window and start typing, only to have it appear in the window I
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>> There are several almost-solutions around, but perhaps the easiest is
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- > Hmm? It's entirely possible to have focus follows mouse behavior in
- > Apple's regular X11 window manager, quartzwm.

- > defaults write com.apple.x11 wm_ffm -bool true
- > defaults write com.apple.x11 wm_click_through -bool true

- > That will set focus-follows-mouse without autoraise, for all X11 apps.

Oh I know that, but you then mix the windows that don't then follow that behaviour with the ones that do, which in my opinion just gets confusing. And so you go full-screen to keep the two sets of windows separate, and once you do that you want to stop using quartzwm as it doesn't give you enough of an environment to do any work in (there's then no application launcher for example).

--

Edd

Subject: Re: Mac Cursor

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 09 Nov 2006 19:58:14 GMT

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Christopher Thom writes:

- > Between QS and expose, I feel
- > constricted and frustrated whenever I end up back on linux boxes...

Gentlemen, please take this over to alt.sex.fetish where it belongs!

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.

Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

Subject: Re: Mac Cursor

Posted by [Jeff Hester](#) on Mon, 13 Nov 2006 02:07:33 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> Christopher Thom writes:
>
>
>> Between QS and expose, I feel
>> constricted and frustrated whenever I end up back on linux boxes...
>
>
> Gentlemen, please take this over to alt.sex.fetish where
> it belongs!
>
> Cheers,
>
> David
>

Wow! Never did I think that a simple question about cursor usage on the Mac (and an off-hand remark that astronomers are moving toward Macs as a platform of choice) would trigger such lively conversation! I was off at a meeting over the past week so missed the real-time fun. There was a lot useful in the discussion -- most of which I still need to digest -- and Ken's Mac tips page is a good start. Thanks to all!

By the way, while I am in no way, shape, or form a wizard, some of us astronomers do know at least a little bit about Unix... ;-)

For what it's worth I currently have about 8 Linux boxes in my group. My foray into the world of Macs is the result of spending far Far FAR !!!FAR!!! too much of my time trying to keep all of those boxes happy. The beginning of the end was RedHat's decision to drop support of RedHat 9. (That one still really annoys me. If they wanted to do Enterprise, fine. But Fedora should have picked up seamlessly where Version 9 left off.) The middle of the end was probably about the time I had to rewrite a bunch of code to cope with the fact that MetaCity is far less configurable than sawfish, which lacking support ceased to be a real option. The end of the end was when I spent the better part of a month over the summer chasing strange hardware/software interactions on a Linux box I was configuring with a big RAID array for network backups.

Somewhere in there I also got fed up with having to live with different environments on my Linux desktop and my Windoze laptop (which had to run things like Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Dreamweaver, Adobe, etc.).

In the end, I'm a scientist and not a system administrator. As much as I support the idea of Linux, I have to face the fact that productivity for me is not about muscle memory (which I keep having to relearn in the Linux world anyway), or about learning to make this week's flavor of Linux sing. It is about having a machine that is straightforward to

support and maintain. Don't get me wrong. I am a STRONG supporter of the idea of open source. Yes, I know that OSX is not built on the best, latest, most pure, most efficient, or most whiz-bang version of Unix. And playing around with an OS IS fun. But in the end what I really need (as do my publication list and grant income) is a platform with lots of supported and useful capability that I can take out of the box and use with a minimum of pain.

Curiously, this is much the same line of reasoning that brought me to IDL 15 years ago. I grew up in a world where "image processing environment" was a euphemism for "C compiler," and for a long time was adamant about using no code that I had not compiled and for the most part written from scratch. But following a series of moves from Bell Labs UNIX to VMS to Sun to DEC/Ultrix, I finally bit the bullet and decided to move to IDL instead of porting all of my old code yet again.

Clearly it was a good decision.

So, on the recommendation of a LOT of colleagues, I just bought a MacBook Pro, a Mac Pro, and one of those lovely 30-inch monitors. Time will tell whether this is the environment I settle in to.

Cheers,
Jeff Hester

Subject: Re: Mac Cursor
Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Mon, 13 Nov 2006 15:15:59 GMT
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In article <2sQ5h.15872\$E_2.8796@newsfe18.lga>, Jeff Hester <jhester@asu.edu> wrote:

> -- and Ken's Mac tips page is a good start. Thanks to all!

I added a few items to the Mac tips web page over the weekend

<http://idl.tamu.edu/mactips.php>

I have a few more items in mind, and will try to keep my eyes open for new topics as they show up here or elsewhere.

Cheers, Ken

Subject: Re: Mac Cursor
Posted by [henrygroe](#) on Mon, 13 Nov 2006 16:11:55 GMT
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Jeff Hester wrote:

> Wow! Never did I think that a simple question about cursor usage on the
> Mac (and an off-hand remark that astronomers are moving toward Macs as a
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> a lot useful in the discussion -- most of which I still need to digest
> -- and Ken's Mac tips page is a good start. Thanks to all!

....

>

> Cheers,
> Jeff Hester

Amen to everything Jeff says.

My only recommendation is go for TWO of those monitors.

I have two 23" ones on my desk and I find myself using them in ways I
never imagined when

I first took the (seemingly extravagant) step of buying a second
monitor.

cheers,
-Henry

Subject: Re: Mac Cursor

Posted by [Jeff Hester](#) on Mon, 13 Nov 2006 16:40:56 GMT

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henrygrove@gmail.com wrote:

> Jeff Hester wrote:

>

>> Wow! Never did I think that a simple question about cursor usage on the
>> Mac (and an off-hand remark that astronomers are moving toward Macs as a
>> platform of choice) would trigger such lively conversation! I was off
>> at a meeting over the past week so missed the real-time fun. There was
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> Amen to everything Jeff says.

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> I have two 23" ones on my desk and I find myself using them in ways I

> never imagined when
> I first took the (seemingly extravagant) step of buying a second
> monitor.
>
> cheers,
> -Henry
>
Actually I've got a 30-inch and a 20-inch on order. I'm thinking of the
20-inch as my desktop and the 30-inch to cover with IDL windows.

Cheers,
Jeff
