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Subject: Tabs in Workbench

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 04 Mar 2008 14:20:53 GMT

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Folks,

In my on-going quest to get four spaces when I hit a TAB in the IDL Workbench, I report some new information.

Thanks to Paul Krummel, I am now aware that there are *\*two\** places where you have set this up for yourself.

The first is under Preferences->General->Editors->Text Editors and the second is under Preferences->IDL->Editor. I had a mismatch between the number of spaces for tabs in those two places. I think that has been *\*part\** of the problem.

Alas, this doesn't solve the problem totally, either. For example, with the new setup consistent as to number of spaces for tabs, I want to edit a CASE statement. It looks like this:

```
CASE mapIndex OF
  0: Map_Set, ....
  1: Map_Set, ...
ENDCASE
```

The CASE and ENDCASE are, in this instance, indented three spaces, and the cases are indented three more spaces. (This code was written back in my "3-space" youth.)

I open up a new line between the two cases, and put my cursor on the first character in the new open line. If I hit a TAB now, I move over to the place where I'm aligned with the numbers 0 and 1. That is six spaces. (One might argue that this is where I want to be, but leave that for a moment.) The next TAB moves me two spaces. (To align with 8?) All subsequent TABs now move me four spaces at a time.

Now, I admit this makes slightly more sense to me than what I *\*used\** to see, when the number of spaces appeared to be totally arbitrary, but it is still *\*not\** what I want, which is four goddamn spaces when I hit a TAB.

If I sound grumpy it's just because I never expected my beloved IDL to turn into Microsoft Word. :-(

Cheers,

David

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

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

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