

A new feature for 1108 users with two-button mice: you can now use Left-Right Chord to simulate Middle button

Most 1108s have a two-button mouse. In place of the middle button, it is necessary to use the "Center" function key above the main keyboard, which is extremely awkward. The latest release of Interlisp-D has the feature that the middle mouse button can be simulated by "chording" the left and right buttons.

Specifically, if Interlisp-D sees Left and Right go down simultaneously, it considers that to be Middle, rather than either Left or Right. The definition of "simultaneously" is within the interval defined by MOUSECHORDWAIT, below. Middle is considered to be down until BOTH Left and Right come up.

If you need to do a mouse operation that would require Middle plus some other button down, you can free one (but never both) of the buttons by letting up on it while still holding the other one down. The Middle button is still considered to be down, but the freed button is now available to register up or down independently. For example, on a 3-button mouse if you are reshaping a window using Middle and want to switch corners, you press Right while still holding down Middle, move to the desired corner, and then let up on Right. To do the same thing on a 2-button mouse, after pressing Left+Right to get Middle, you let up on Right while still holding Left. This "frees" Right from the chord, and you can now press down on Right, move to the other corner, let up on Right, all the while still holding Left.

To get the combination Left + Right, just don't press them down at the same instant. To get Left + Middle + Right, or to get combinations in which Middle is not the first (logical) button to go down, you must still resort to the use of the Center key on the keyboard.

The Center key continues to be a synonym for Middle mouse, independent of the above.

(MOUSECHORDWAIT msec) [Function]

Specifies the interval of time (in milliseconds) during which the Left and Right buttons on a DLion mouse must go down to be considered "simultaneous" and hence treated as Middle. Returns the previous setting. (MOUSECHORDWAIT) returns the current setting without changing it. (MOUSECHORDWAIT NIL) disables chording. The largest permissible setting is 1872 milliseconds, or almost 2 seconds.

The system is conservatively initialized with (MOUSECHORDWAIT 50). You may want to set it higher; I suspect 100 or even 200 might be acceptable. The competing constraints: The lower the setting, the more difficult it is to chord (the more coordinated your fingers must be). The higher the setting, the longer the system must wait when you press down Left or Right alone before deciding that it's not going to turn into Middle; hence, the less responsive the mouse might seem in such cases.