Let's talk about neovim





Shougo (暗黒美夢王)

Caution!

- This slide is in English.
- But the talk is in Japanese.
- It is not any of official information.
- It is my personal thought and understanding. It may contain several mistakes.
- The presentation has spiritual topic, Battle Editors and Chuunibyou (中二病).
- They are features.

Self-introduction

- Shougo
- I am called as "暗黒美夢王". Pronouces it "Uncock Vim Awe".
- Fufufu... my Vim is dark powered.
- I always think about Text Editors.
- I love Vim and Vim script.
- Experience of Vim: 8 years
- Experience of Vim script: 6 years



What's neovim?(3 lines)

- It is forked Vim.
- It is developed in github instead of ML.
- It aims "Modern Vim".



The Vim text editor has been loved by a generation of users.

This is the next generation.



Features(contains planned)

- Some features are removed(Ex: vi compatible mode, spellcheck, crypto, old platforms support).
- The source code is refactored.
- Asynchronous communication by MessagePackRPC.
- The developers can make plugins by multiple languages.
- Vim script remains to keep the compatibility.
- GUI feature will be implemented by MessagePackRPC.
- Can embed neovim in other applications.



Background

- 20 years later, Vim users have changed.
- There are two types of Vim users.
- 1: Light Vim users. They use Vim as Text Editor.
 - Ex: System administrators, Vim develpers, Embedded develpers
- 2: Dark Vim users. They use Vim as IDE or environment.
 - Ex: Plugin junkies, Plugin develpers, Web develpers
- Dark Vim users are increased. But many develoers in vim_dev are Light Vim users. Because they has enough Vim(C) skill.
- Dark Vim users sent some patches to vim_dev, but it is not accepted.
- So, Dark Vim users(Mr.tarruda and the contributers) forked Vim => neovim

Weak point

- Neovim is not 100% compatible with Vim.
- Less developers.
- They may decide wrong decision.
- Cannot merge from many upstream patches.
- No GUI yet.
- No if_lua, if_ruby yet(if_python2 is available).



Current upstream patches(in 11/06)

- Note: neovim is started in Vim 7.4.165.
- http://neovim.org/doc/reports/vimpatch/
- All patches: 507
- Merged: 321
- N/A(not needed): 84
- Pull requests are available: 22
- Patches are needed!: 80



Fork is not easy solution!

- Vim is developed activily(400 patches in 1 year).
- Forked project needs more develoers power than original.
- Wins fork or original. Not both.
- Example: Chromium forked browser, Firefox forked browser, XEmacs
- Example2: https://github.com/Floobits/vim
 - It is settimeout() implementation fork, but it is not maintained.
 https://github.com/Floobits/vim/issues/3
 - They have developed neovim plugin.
 - https://github.com/Floobits/floobits-neovim

My support for neovim

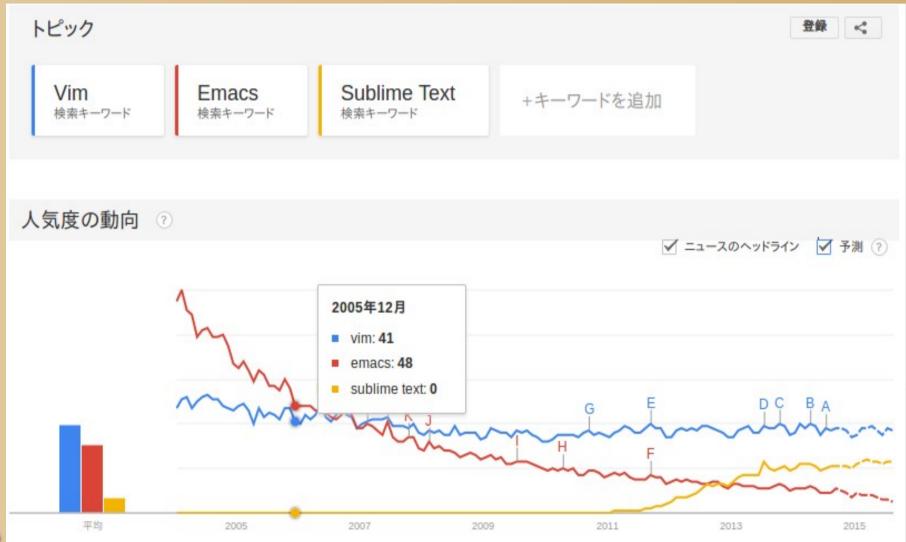
- Donated(both Vim and neovim).
- Watching issues, reddit, neovim, Web pages.
- Pull requested some of upstream patches.
- I will create next generation of completion plugin for neovim by Lua language...
- It will be full asynchronous completion engine.



Why do I support neovim?

- Note: I am not 100% agree with neovim development.
- Many people are exciting(I have not seen negative opinions).
- Neovim may solve Vim problems.
- The competition of the development environments becomes hard(IDE, Atom, Sublime Text, etc).
- Emacs power is downed.
- I cannot be optimistic about Vim's future.

Current Editor's trend





Why does Vim users not decrease?

- I think Light Vim users are not grown.
- I think Dark Vim users are grown from other editors/IDEs.
- If the users disappointed at Vim, Vim power will be downed.



Vim design policy

• :help design-not

VIM IS... NOT *design-not*

- Vim is not a shell or an Operating System. You will not be able to run a shell inside Vim or use it to control a debugger. This should work the other way around: Use Vim as a component from a shell or in an IDE. A satirical way to say this: "Unlike Emacs, Vim does not attempt to include everything but the kitchen sink, but some people say that you can clean one with it. ;-)"

To use Vim with gdb see: http://www.agide.org and http://clewn.sf.net.

- Vim is not a fancy GUI editor that tries to look nice at the cost of being less consistent over all platforms. But functional GUI features are welcomed.



What's "the text editor"?

- Current text editors are like IDE.
 - Syntax check, Plugin manager, Auto completion,
 Asynchronous processes
- Vim is not the exception.
 - Scripting, QuickFix, Builtin completions, Tab, Preview window
- The definition of "the text editors" can be change.
- I think current editors are "configurable/pluggable/lite IDE" instead of traditional editors(example: vi, nano).

Vim-jp and neovim

- http://vim-jp.org/
- Vim-jp is original Vim community in Japan.
- It combines Vim users and Vim plugin develpers and Vim develpers.
- github issues development.
- Patch review in github.
- High skilled Vim(C) Develoers.
- I think it is similar to neovim.
- It is modern and traditional hybrid.
- I think Vim-jp develpers
- can support neovim.



Future next

- neovim Lua client(if_lua) is under development.
 https://github.com/neovim/lua-client
- Neovim will release beta version in December....
- I think neovim limit time is until Vim 8.0(2015 summer?)



Conclusion

- Do you look forward to neovim?
- Then, you should support neovim.
- Magic power is nothing in open source world.
- Neovim is not vaperware. But it is in just start line. It is not easy to continue the project like Vim.
- My hope is coexistense with light Vimmers and dark Vimmers instead of exclusion.



Finally...

- I created new **parody** song for Vim conference 2014.
- The song name is "Neo Edit it all".
- It is about "neovim".
- Unfortunatelly, it is Japanese song.
- Are you ready?
- Note: UST is not available.

