

live-update

Edit a file with live updates

This is a simple script that automates the process of updating a document while editing its source. It uses `entr` to run `make update` when the file being edited is modified, so really you can have any command or commands run when the file is updated. A few examples of when this might be useful:

- Regenerating a PDF when a LaTeX file is updated.
- Create an HTML preview of a markdown document.
- Generate an HTML file from markdown and then push this to a remote server.

The script can be used to provide a live markdown preview while editing the markdown in `vim` in a more flexible way than the existing vim plugins that attempt to do this (this is actually the original motivation for the script).

Dependencies

Requires `entr` to be installed.

Example

Let's say you want to see a live preview of a Markdown file while you edit it in a text editor. First, create a `Makefile` with an `update` target. `live-update` will pass the name of the file being edited to `make` through the `INFILE` variable, so this can be used in your `Makefile`. Here is an example that uses `pandoc` (<http://pandoc.org/>) to create a PDF from Markdown

```
update:
    pandoc -f markdown -t latex -o $(basename $(INFILE)).pdf $(INFILE)
```

Now you can edit the file with the editor set by the environment, `$EDITOR` (uses `vim` if `$EDITOR` is not set) using `live-edit`

```
live-edit example.md
```

This will create a PDF named `example.pdf`, and regenerate the file on file saves. You can then open `example.pdf` with a viewer such as `evince`, which will automatically reload the file when it is updated.