

PyBoard Editor: Small Python Text Editor

Looking for a code editor that would fit onto Pyboard, I made my way through the Micropython forum and found pfalkon's Python editor code, which I took and ported it to PyBoard. It's really impressive how few lines of code pfalkon needed to implement a reasonable amount of functionality. Since the code looked clean, and it seemed so easy to add features, I could not resist adding a little bit, and yes, it got a little bit larger. The file size increased by a factor of 3 (only some of that caused by commenting), and the footprint in memory by a factor of 1,5 to 2 (now 12k), depending on what you keep. It still contains the code for the Linux environment, so you can run it in Linux MicroPython (if you install the os module) or Python3 for testing. I sprayed C Preprocessor statements in it (arrgh!), so you can use cpp to remove the stuff which is not needed for PyBoard. So, what did I change and add:

- Use USB_VCP or UART for input and output.
- Changed the read keyboard function to comply with slow char-by-char input on serial lines.
- Added support for TAB, BACKTAB, SAVE, FIND, REPLACE, GOTO Line, YANK (delete line into buffer), ZAP (insert buffer), REDRAW
- Join lines by Delete Char at the end or Backspace at the beginning, Autoindent for Enter.
- Moved main into a function with an optional parameter for tabsize and line number column
- Added a status line and single line prompts for Quit, Save, Find, Replace and Goto. The status line can be turned (almost) off for slow connections.
- Support of the basic mouse functions scrolling up/down and setting the cursor.

The editor works in Insert mode. Cursor Keys, Home, End, PgUp and PgDn work as you would expect. Some functions are available with Ctrl-Keys. Keyboard Mapping:

| Keys | Alternative | Function |
|-----------|-------------|--|
| Up | | Move the cursor up one line. |
| Down | | Move the cursor down one line. |
| Left | | Move the cursor left by one char up to the line beginning. |
| Right | | Move the cursor right by one char up tp the line end. |
| PgUp | | Move the cursor up by one screen height. |
| PgDn | | Move the cursor down by one screen height. |
| Home | | Move the cursor towards the start of the line. If the cursor is to the right of the first non-space, it moves to the first non-space, otherwise it moves to the start of the line. |
| End | | Move to the End of the Line. |
| Enter | \n | Insert a line break at the cursor position. Auto-indent is supported if enabled.(*) |
| Backspace | Ctrl-H | Delete the char left hand to the cursor. If auto-indent is enabled and the cursor is at the first non-space, backspace mimics BackTab. At the beginning of the line Backspace joins the current line with the previous line. (*) |
| Del | | Delete char under cursor. If the cursor is at the end of the line, join the next line. In line edit prompts, Del deletes the whole entry. |
| Tab | Ctrl-I | Insert a tab, context sensitive. If the cursor is left hand to the first non-space, it shifts the line to the right, such that the first non-space is at a tab position (the editor targets Python code), and the cursor does not move. If |

| | | |
|-----------|----------|--|
| | | at or after the first non-space, it inserts spaces at the cursor position up to the next tab location, moving the cursor. |
| BackTab | Ctrl-U | BackTab, context sensitive. If the cursor is left hand to the first non-space, it shifts the line to the left, such that the first non-space is at a tab position, and the cursor does not move. If at or after the first non-space, it removes spaces left to the cursor position up to the next tab location, if possible, and moves the cursor. |
| Ctrl-Q | Ctrl-C | Quit the editor or the line edit mode. If the edited text was changed and it was loaded from a file, a confirmation is asked for. |
| Ctrl-S | | Save to file. The file name will be prompted for. Saving to internal flash of PyBoard is really slow, so don't get nervous. Watch the red LED. |
| Ctrl-E | | Redraw the screen according to the actual screen parameters width, height and number of lines in the content. Sadly, there is no way that ANSI-Terminals report size changes when it happens (a physical terminal rarely changes it's size by itself), which would allow for automatic size change. |
| Ctrl-F | | Find text. Whether the search is case sensitive or not, can be set by the Ctrl-A command. The last search string is memorized. Search stops at the end. |
| Ctrl-N | | Repeat find starting at the column right to the cursor. |
| Ctrl-R | | Find and replace. (*) |
| Ctrl-G | | Go to Line. It prompts for the line number. |
| Ctrl-A | | Sets the state of search case sensitivity, status line and autoindent. Enter 'y' or 'n' in three, comma separated fields (e.g. y,n,y). An empty field leaves the respective value unchanged. The default for the status line is 'On' for USB or host interface and 'Off' for serial interface. |
| Ctrl-Home | Ctrl-B | Go to last line (kind of obsolete, go to a huge line number will do the same). (*) |
| Ctrl-End | Ctrl-T | Go to first line (kind of obsolete, go to line 1 will do the same). (*) |
| Ctrl-X | Ctrl-Del | Delete Line and keep it in a line buffer. A sequence of these commands will keep all lines in the order they were deleted in the buffer. Any other command in between will start over the game. Together with the Ctrl-X this implements a very basic Cut & Paste feature, to be treated with care. (*) |
| Ctrl-D | | Copy the current line into a line buffer and go down one line. A sequence of these commands will keep all lines in the order they were deleted in the buffer. Any other command in between will start over the game. Together with the Ctrl-V this implements a very basic Copy & Paste feature. (*) |
| Ctrl-V | | Insert the content of the line buffer before the actual line. (*) |

Functions denoted with (*) are not supported in the BASIC version (see below). The editor is contained in the file `pye.py`. Start `pye` from the REPL prompt e.g. with

```
from pye import *
res = pye([object][, tabsize][, lnum][, device][, baud])
```

If `object` is a string, it's considered as the name of a file to be edited, and the name of the file will be returned. If `object` is a list of strings, these will be edited, and the edited list will be returned.

Otherwise, `pye()` will give you an empty screen, creating a list of strings, unless you save to a file. In that case, the file name will be returned. Optional named parameters:

`tabsize=x` Tab step. The default is 4

lnum=x Show a line number column. Values are 0/1 or False/True. The default is True. A value of False suppresses the line number column.

device=n Device to be used for screen/keyboard on PyBoard. 0 means USB_VCP. 1 means UART 1, and so on. The default is 0 (USB_VCP).

baud=n UART baud rate. The default is 115200

The Linux/Darwin version can be called from the command line with:

```
python3 pye.py [-t tabsize] [-l] [-h] [filename]
```

Flags: -t x set tabsize to x spaces
 -l suppress line number column
 -h display this usage info

Using python3 (not micropython), content can also be redirected or pipe'd into the editor. The file pye.py is pretty large (for PyBoard). As told, it contains C pre-processor statements allowing trimming it down a little bit. For that reason, comments start with ## instead of #. So for PyBoard, you might run:

```
cpp -D PYBOARD -D DEFINES pye.py >pe.py
```

That will result in a file with all functions supplied, but smaller footprint when loaded. The directive DEFINES will replace symbolic key names with numeric constants, reducing the demand for symbol space. You may strip down the file size (not the P-code footprint) by removing comments and empty lines (that's what I do), e.g. by:

```
cpp -D PYBOARD -D DEFINES pye.py | sed "s/#.*/" | sed "/^$/d" >pe.py
```

Doing that also removes dead code like the one for the Linux environment. If the footprint is still too large, you may choose:

```
cpp -D BASIC -D PYBOARD -D DEFINES pye.py | sed "s/#.*/" | sed "/^$/d" >pemin.py
```

That removes the code for Delete Line, Insert buffer, Tab, Backtab, Goto first line, goto last line, line join by backspace, auto-indent/flags settings and scrolling optimization. There are still lines left as "if sys.platform == "pyboard". If you do not like these, delete them manually (and take care of the indents). If you just want to get rid of the cpp preprocessor stuff, run:

```
cpp -D PYBOARD pye.py | grep -v "^#.*/" >pe.py
```

Backup:

The keyboard mapping assumes VT100. For those interested, I collected a the key codes issue by terminal emulators, all claiming VT100 compatible:

| Key | Putty VT100 & Xterm | Putty esc- [~ | Putty Linux | Minicom | GtkTerm | Picocom | Linux Terminal |
|-----------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------|
| Up | \e[A | \e[A | \e[A | \e[A | \e[A | \e[A | \e[A |
| Down | \e[B | \e[B | \e[B | \e[B | \e[B | \e[B | \e[B |
| Left | \e[D | \e[D | \e[D | \e[D | \e[D | \e[D | \e[D |
| Right | \e[C | \e[C | \e[C | \e[C | \e[C | \e[C | \e[C |
| Home | \e[1~ | \e[1~ | \e[1~ | \e[1~ | \eOH | \eOH | \e[H |
| End | \e[4~ | \e[4~ | \e[4~ | \eOF | \eOF | \eOF | \e[F |
| Ins | \e[2~ | \e[2~ | \e[2~ | \e[2~ | \e[2~ | \e[2~ | \e[2~ |
| Del | \e[3~ | \e[3~ | \e[3~ | \e[3~ | \e[3~ | \e[3~ | \e[3~ |
| PgUp | \e[5~ | \e[5~ | \e[5~ | \e[5~ | \e[5~ | \e[5~ | \e[5~ |
| PgDn | \e[6~ | \e[6~ | \e[6~ | \e[6~ | \e[6~ | \e[6~ | \e[6~ |
| Backspace | \x7f | \x7f | \x7f | \x7f | \x08 | \x7f | \x7f |
| Ctrl-Home | | | | \e[1;5H | | \e[1;5H | \e[1;5H |

| Key | Putty VT100 & Xterm | Putty esc- [~ | Putty Linux | Minicom | GtkTerm | Picocom | Linux Terminal |
|----------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------------------|---------|---------|-------------------|
| Ctrl-End | | | | \e[1;5F | | \e[1;5F | \e[1;5F |
| Ctrl-Del | | | | \e[3;5~ | \e[3;5~ | \e[3;5~ | \e[3;5~ |
| Tab | \x09 | \x09 | \x09 | \x09 | \x09 | \x09 | \x09 |
| BackTab | \e[Z | \e[Z | \e[Z | \e[Z | \e[Z | \e[Z | \e[Z |
| F1 | \eOP | \e[11~ | \e[[A | -- Calls Linux Terminal Help | | | |
| F2 | \eOQ | \e[12~ | \e[[B | \eOQ | \eOQ | \eOQ | \eOQ |

Picocom seems sometimes to send the Linux Terminal codes. Nevertheless, I'm using it most of the times. If the KEYMAP is too large, and you know which terminal you are working on, delete or comment out the obsolete lines. If your terminal is different, just change the control codes.

Notes:

- When you save a file on PyBoard, these changes are not visible in the file system of a connected PC until you disconnect and reconnect the Pyboard drive, e.g. by a hard reset of PyBoard. See also the related discussion in the MicroPython Forum.
- For those who wonder why sending data to the screen on PyBoard is more than a simple write(): for USB_VCP.write() stumbles over a large amount of data to be sent in short time. The difference is, that UART.write() waits internally until all has been sent, whereas USB_VCP.write() stops when it cannot send more data. So we have to see what's coming back. And, b.t.w., UART.write() does not like empty strings, which in turn is accepted by USB_VCP.write().
- For Delete Line/Insert Line the key mapping is now Ctrl-X/Ctrl-V. I played a while with Ctrl-Y/Ctrl-Z, which is also kind of natural.
- Windows terminal emulators behave inconsistent. Putty does not report the mouse actions at all. TeraTerm, IVT terminal and Xsh20 just report the mouse click, but not the scroll wheel actions. ZOC reports mouse positions constantly, and sends no key codes for Home, End, PgUp, PGDn and Del. The latter holds also for PowerVT. I could not get Qodem working. Hyperterminal's VT100 emulation is crap. So, after all, I consider TeraTerm, Xsh20 or Putty as the best choices for Windows.
- Gnome terminal sometimes does not send the first mouse wheel code, after the pointer was moved into the window. Mate and XFCE4 terminal do, but have slightly different keyboard mappings.
- When reading files, tab characters (\x09) in the text are replaced by spaces, tab size 8, and white space at the end of a line is discarded. When you save the file, it will NOT be restored. So be careful when editing files which need tab characters. For micropython, I added a simple version of expandtabs. If at any time the expandtabs method is supported by Micropython, I will be happy to dump this code.

To Do:

- Testing, using, polishing and bug juggling.