GNU Emacs

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Why Not an
IDE?

Common
Terminology

Getting Help

Extending
Emacs

Examples

GNU Emacs
The extensible, customizable editor

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Outline

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Why Emacs?

GNU Emacs was originally written in 1984 by Richard
Stallman, with origins dating back to 1976 in MIT's AI Lab.

- decades of work and refinement
- extensive help system and information online
- first-class plugin support

These are both great choices, but Emacs has:

- an integrated package manager
- proper subprocess support
- vast amount of packages available for almost any application

Basics

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Terms:

C-h t Hold down Control, hit h then release, and then
hit t.

buffer representation of a file or other resource

window view on a particular buffer

mode 1 major, n minor modes define methods, redefine
keybindings, and provide syntax highlighting
(among other things)

Some things to remember:

- everything is a function (M-x)
- there are numerous help facilities to remind the user of
functions, modes, variables, etc

Immediate Help

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`C-h t` Emacs tutorial

`C-h k` help on a specific keybinding

`C-h m` docs on current modes

`C-h f` function docstring

`C-h v` help on a variable (including its current value)

`C-h ?` help (on the help system)

Longer-Term Help

- The Emacs Manual: C-h r
- http://emacswiki.org: Chaotic, be cautious of outdated/wrong information
- .emacs: Looking through other configurations can be quite fruitful
- Emacs reference cards: http://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/refcards/index.html
- Ask me!

Plugins

`package.el` was included in Emacs, starting with Emacs 24. It allows for installing packages (plugins) from a repository archive.

`package-list-packages` refresh repositories, list all available and installed packages

`package-install` install a specified package

Adding Repositories

Marmalade and MELPA are two of the most diverse package repositories. MELPA builds from github source on a regular basis, and is your best source for new packages.

LaTeX

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- AucTeX is the definitive Emacs package for writing LaTeX
- it's available in most package managers and from Emacs 24+
- Demo!

Alternative Buffers

Buffers can be something other than just a view into a file

- terminal (`eshell`, `shell`)
- functional buffers (`magit`, `dired`)
- IRC (`erc`)
- REPL (`R`, `nrepl`)

Demo!

Org Mode

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Org Mode is, at its simplest, an outlining tool.

"Org-mode does outlining, note-taking, hyperlinks, spreadsheets, TODO lists, project planning, GTD, HTML and LaTeX authoring, all with plain text files in Emacs." — Carsten Dominik, author Org Mode

I use it for outlining, and keeping track of what I need to get done with the agenda.

Demo!

My `.emacs.d`

- In newer versions of Emacs, the `.emacs.d` directory (normally located at `~/emacs.d`) contains the configuration (and package files) for Emacs.
- I use a fair number of packages, and have split some of the configuration out from `init.el` into separate topical init files.
- Demo!

Questions?

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Thanks!