

GNU Emacs

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# GNU Emacs

The extensible, customizable editor

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# Outline

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# Why Emacs?

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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

# Ok, So Why Not Vim or Sublime Text?

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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

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- 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: Chaotic, be cautious of outdated/wrong information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

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`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.



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

# Alternative Buffers

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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

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- 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!