

# Using emacs efficiently at EPITA

and other places of the universe

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# Outline

- 1 The awfully slow workcycle of login\_x
- 2 Emacs basics
- 3 Emacs as a development environment
- 4 Emacs as an über text and code editor

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- Press `up` a few times to retrieve the compile command.
- Iterates until it compiles.

# Work cycle, you're doing it wrong.

What was wrong?

- Constantly closing and starting emacs.
- Navigating by tapping keys like a drummer.
- Compiling in the shell instead of emacs.
- Performing complex repetitive actions.

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# Some vocabulary.

- Frame: an emacs window, in the KDE sense of the term.

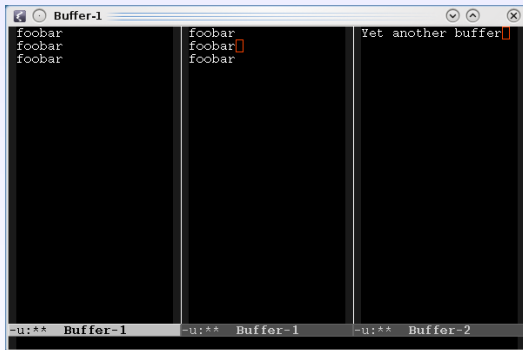


Figure: One emacs *frame*.



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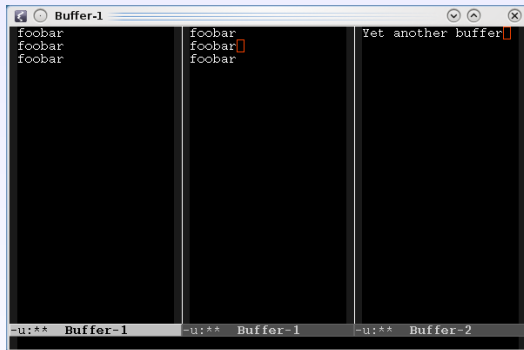


Figure: One emacs *frame* with three *windows*.

# Some vocabulary.

- Frame: an emacs window, in the KDE sense of the term.
- Window: a cell in a split frame, with its *modeline*.
- Buffer: a text area that can be displayed in windows.
  - Not every buffer is necessarily visible at a given time.
  - A buffer may be displayed in several different windows.

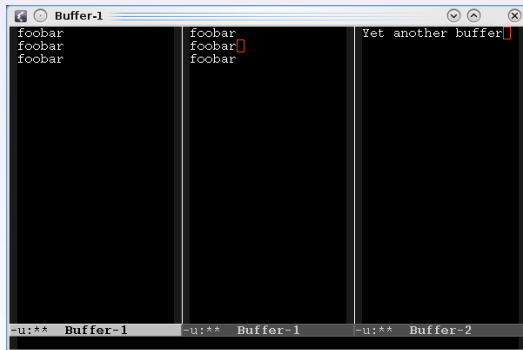


Figure: One emacs *frame* with three *windows* and two *buffers*.

# Some basics.

Emacs relies heavily on ELisp, a variety of Lisp.

- You can program virtually any Emacs behavior in ELisp.
- “Behaviors” are ELisp functions that are declared *interactive*.
- You can run any interactive function with:  
`M-x function-name.`
- Keyboard shortcuts in emacs are in fact just bound to interactive functions.

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→ Why the fuck are you doing with your mouse? Unplug it.
- When I'm forced to use the console version (over ssh for instance), I'm already used to it.



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So:

- Start your emacs, and do not close it!
- Open new files with `C-x C-f` instead.
- Do not re-open files, switch buffers with `C-x b`.
- Use `ido-mode` to greatly improve files and buffer navigation.

# Using Ido mode.

Try ido mode: `M-x ido-mode`. Once you're convinced, put it in your config file:

## Using ido mode

```
; Turn Ido mode on.
(ido-mode)
; Use it to navigate files and buffers everywhere.
(ido-everywhere)
; Tab only completes and does not open files.
(setq ido-confirm-unique-completion t)
; Do not search files in other directories.
(setq ido-auto-merge-work-directories-length -1)
; Switch buffers with C-b for instance - shorter than C-x b.
(global-set-key [(control b)] 'ido-switch-buffer)
```

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- `C-x 3` to split horizontally.
- `C-x 2` to split vertically.
- `C-x 1` to close all other windows.
- `C-x 0` to close this window.
- `C-x o` to switch window.

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## Using windmove to switch window.

```
; move to left window
(global-set-key [M-left] 'windmove-left)
; move to right window
(global-set-key [M-right] 'windmove-right)
; move to upper window
(global-set-key [M-up] 'windmove-up)
; move to lower window
(global-set-key [M-down] 'windmove-down)
```

Now press `Meta + direction` to move through windows.  
Cool, uh?



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# Compiling in emacs.

Compile directly in Emacs for maximum integration.

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- Give it your compilation command.
- Later, use `M-x recompile`, unless you want to change the command.
- Make a shortcut for `recompile`, because we're lazy.

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Emacs shows the compilation output in a separate window.

- Compile with a simple keystroke.
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- `C-x backquote`: Emacs fucking navigates us directly to errors!

# Compiling in emacs

## Tweaking compilation

```
; Recompile with C-c c
(global-set-key [(control c) (c)] 'recompile)
; Visit errors with C-c e
(global-set-key [(control c) (e)] 'next-error)
; Set the compilation window height
(setq compilation-window-height 14)
; Scroll automatically to follow compilation
(setq compilation-scroll-output t)
```

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→ Okay, now we look more like engineers and less like monkeys.

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# Abuse your computer.

The computer works for you. Not the opposite. If you do any of these, there is a problem:

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Don't forget that:

- The computer is your work slave. Enjoy, it's legal.
- Leave all the dirty work to it.
- Don't let your tool bug you: bend it to your will.

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- If you really wanna move `N` lines down, you can repeat most actions with a numeric `C-u` prefix: `C-u 42 down` moves 42 lines down.
- Set the mark somewhere with `C-space`. Get back there with `C-u C-space`.

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- Switch characters, perfect for typos: `C-t`
- Switch words: `M-t`.

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- Sort region alphabetically: `M-x sort-lines`.

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- Indent: `tab`.
- Indent region: `C-M-\`.

If I catch anyone tapping `down` and `tab` to indent a piece of code ...



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- Lexical completion: `M-/.` .
- Delete trailing whitespace: `M-x delete-trailing-whitespace`.

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If you're a warrior, you can design macros to insert common structures...

Otherwise, just re-use other's!

Some (very basic) macro to insert braces.

```
(defun c-insert-braces ()  
  "Insert curly braces around the current line"  
  (interactive)  
  (beginning-of-line)  
  (setq begin (point))  
  (insert b "{\n")  
  (end-of-line)  
  (insert "\n}" a)  
  (indent-region begin (point))  
  (line-move -1)  
  (end-of-line)))  
; Bind it  
(define-key c-mode-base-map  
  [(control c) (control b)] 'c-insert-braces)
```

# Search and replace

Search and replace code with `isearch`:

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- Yank word from buffer: `isearch-yank-word`.

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- Search regexp: `isearch-forward-regexp`.
- Next occurrence: `isearch-repeat-forward`.
- Previous occurrence: `isearch-repeat-backward`.
- Yank word from buffer: `isearch-yank-word`.
- Switch to replace mode: `isearch-query-replace`.



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Search and replace code with `isearch`:

- Search: `isearch-forward`.
- Search regexp: `isearch-forward-regexp`.
- Next occurrence: `isearch-repeat-forward`.
- Previous occurrence: `isearch-repeat-backward`.
- Yank word from buffer: `isearch-yank-word`.
- Switch to replace mode: `isearch-query-replace`.

You can make your own bindings.

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Unleash all the text-processing power of your Unix environment on you code!

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Seamlessly automatize any text processing!

# Conclusion. . .

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- 200.000 years of evolution.
- Two opposable thumbs

Honor evolution, make a decent use of your tools.

# Conclusion. . .

Des questions, des choses pas claires?