

# Python isort in Emacs

The Python package `isort` is awesome for organizing imports in `py` files in an uniform and predictable way. Instead of worrying about what order and where to put your `import` statements, just code without any worries. When you are done, call `isort yourfile.py` on the terminal to have `isort` sort all of the imports.

I wrote a simple function that allows you to call `isort` from within Emacs, and have `isort` sort the imports in your current buffer. The function can be added to your `init.el` file:

```
(defun isort-buffer ()
  "Uses the Python program isort on current buffer."
  (interactive)
  (setq tmp-file (make-temp-file "isort-test"))
  (mark-whole-buffer)
  (write-region (point-min) (point-max) tmp-file)
  (shell-command (concat "isort " tmp-file))
  (erase-buffer)
  (insert-file-contents tmp-file))
```

To use it, simply call `M-x isort-buffer`.

I often use it in conjunction to source code blocks in orgmode when doing literate programming. I use `org-edit-special` (usually assigned to `C-c '`) to open a Python source code block in a separate buffer, then call `M-x isort-buffer` to have `isort` organize all my imports in a neat way.