Emacs

and the editor wars…
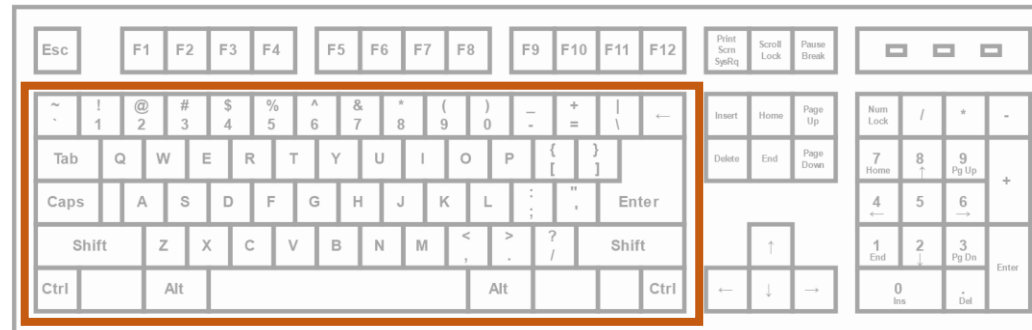
What are the editor wars?

vs.

What is Emacs?

- "An extensible, customizable, free/libre text editor"
- Began development in mid 1970s – its old!
- A wide range of functionality
- Accessible purely from the keyboard (no mouse)

What does Emacs do? (the basics)

- Basic functionality: editing text-based files efficiently using the main section of your keyboard:

- Keystrokes typically start with the 'Ctrl' (C) and 'Alt' (M) keys

- For example:
  - the command C-f moves forward one character
  - the command M-f moves forward one word

What does Emacs do? (continued…)

- Organise your activity efficiently using windows and frames
- Everything is an editable text file in Emacs

What does Emacs do? (extensions)

- You can do pretty much any computer task in Emacs, including:
  - Web-browsing
  - Viewing PDF documents
  - Managing task lists
  - Managing e-mails
  - Playing tetris (M-x tetris)
  - Running a full desktop environment

- Full capability with the above will require knowledge of 'modes' and 'packages'
- Fully customisable using Lisp

What you can do next

- Install: run "sudo apt install emacs" from the terminal in your VM

- Get started: open Emacs GUI and type 'C-h t' or click on the tutorial – this will take approx. 1-2hrs.

- More information: https://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/

- Warning: when searching for ways around problems, there is **a lot** of jargon, but maybe that's just me.

- Enjoy ☺