Contents

Chapter 1

Installation

I've fetched Emacs from the [GitHub mirror repository](#). The source code resides in ~/developer/software/emacs. Installation instructions reside in the source directory in the file named "INSTALL". I've chosen to use a build directory named "build". From the build directory run configure with:

```
1  $ ./../configure --with-x-toolkit=gtk3 --with-mailutils \
2                --with-imagemagick --with-xwidgets
```

I'm currently using version 26.1, by running:

```
1  $ git checkout emacs-26.1
```

There is some issue with highlighting in version 27.050 (potentially font-lock?) that makes it very annoying to write code. In general I should only use stable releases, which are specified on the [Emacs website](#).

Chapter 2

Packages

2.1 Gnus

Gnus was a huge pain to setup. I finally got it working with the information at this link.

2.2 Term

Ansi term uses 8 colors for the terminal GUI. We can redefine these colors in an Emacs terminal by customizing their values with `M-x customize-group RET term RET` . The colors must also be configured in `~/.bashrc` .

Chapter 3

Structure

Chapter 4

Best Practices

This Emacs manual page contains principles to follow when customizing key bindings. Basically, `C-c <letter>` (but not `C-c` followed by another control character) as well as `<f5>` through `<f9>` are free for users to define how they wish.

Chapter 5

To-Do

5.1 Ivy/Swiper to Helm

Consider changing ivy and swiper to Helm. Helm is a larger project and may therefore be better maintained with more features. The downside to this might be slower autocompletion times in which case it may not be worth changing. If you do make the change, make sure to adjust custom−set−faces for Helm instead of ivy.

5.2 Powerline Custom Mode-Line Configuration for Specific Modes

I'm experiencing an issue with powerline. I'd like to be able to display 2 different mode lines depending on whether I'm in pdf-view-mode or not. When displaying a PDF I'd like to display the current page and the total number of pages instead of the current row/column position of the cursor. In all other modes I'd like to display the row/column position of the cursor. The issue seems to be that powerline does not allow setting different configurations for different major modes. For instance, if I set a hook for pdf-view-mode, it will then stay in force for other buffers. I'm not eager to go back to the default mode line because it doesn't show the file size and

powerline developers that different modes are not possible. Another possible solution might be spaceline. Or, maybe I can get the buffer size in the default mode line display (look at powerline function).

The file size can be displayed in the mode line of certain buffers by enabling `size-indication-mode`. Critically though, this doesn't work when displaying PDF's and potentially other file types as well. I've currently disabled powerline until I have a better solution: seeing the PDF page number outweighs the cost of a slightly worse aesthetic and seeing the file size for PDFs.

5.3 Customize Mode Line

This should supersede the prior section (Powerline customization). I can customize mode-line-format on a per-mode basis (see this StackExchange question). Also, see the Emacs documentation on the subject.

5.4   Disable cursor in pdf-view-mode

I'd like to disable the cursor when viewing a PDF. It's distracting and provides no value. I've tried these two additions to `init.el` to no avail:

```
1  (add-hook 'pdf-view-mode-hook
2            (lambda ()
3               (make-variable-buffer-local 'cursor-type)
4               (setq cursor-type nil)))
5  (add-hook 'post-command-hook
6            (lambda ()
7               (setq cursor-type (if pdf-view-mode t 'nil))))
```

These are the links I've found that address related issues:

How to change the cursor type and color?

Cursor parameters

How can I make the cursor change to block in overwrite mode?

Changing Cursor Dynamically

Cursor Display

5.5   Run Emacs as Daemon

Apparently, running Emacs as a server and then using emacsclient gives better results. I should investigate how this is done.

5.6   Get much better at Gnus

5.7   Display header when buffer is displayed

Currently, a header displays only when you cursor to it. It should be displayed immediately when the buffer opens.

5.8   Remap keybindings to adhere to best practices