

## Autosave / Backup

| Operation   | Keystroke  | Function   | Note  |
|---|--|--|---|
| <a href="#">File Auto-Saving</a>  | By default Emacs autosaves files into file that have a name that starts and ends with '#', unless there's code that changes that behaviour. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PEL uses the default auto-save file names.</li> <li>• Buffers not visiting files can also be autosaved if that is requested explicitly (by turning the auto-save-mode for that buffer).</li> <li>• When a large portion of text is deleted from a buffer, its auto-save-mode is automatically disabled temporarily to help retain that deleted text in the auto-saved copy. It is re-activated when the buffer is saved in a file (with <b>C-x C-s</b>) or when activating auto-save-mode.</li> </ul> |  |   |
| <b>Toggle autosave of the current buffer</b>  | M-x auto-save-mode   | ( <b>auto-save-mode</b> &optional ARG)                   | Toggle auto-saving in the current buffer (Auto Save mode). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With a prefix argument ARG, enable Auto Save mode if ARG is positive, and disable it otherwise.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Toggle auto-saving directly to the file (instead of the normal auto-save file)</b> | M-x auto-save-visited-mode   | ( <b>auto-save-visited-mode</b> &optional ARG)           | Toggle automatic saving to file-visiting buffers on or off. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With a prefix argument ARG, enable regular saving of all buffers visiting a file if ARG is positive, and disable it otherwise.</li> <li>• Unlike 'auto-save-mode', this mode will auto-save buffer contents to the visited files directly and will also run all save-related hooks.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Auto-save now all buffers that need it.</b>  | M-x do-auto-save   | ( <b>do-auto-save</b> &optional NO-MESSAGE CURRENT-ONLY) | Auto-save all buffers that need it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is all buffers that have auto-saving enabled and are changed since last auto-saved.</li> <li>• Auto-saving writes the buffer into a file so that your editing is not lost if the system crashes. This file is not the file you visited; that changes only when you save.</li> </ul>                               |
| <a href="#">Recovering Data from auto-saves</a>                                       | The following commands allow recovering data from auto-saved files.  |  |   |
| <b>Recover content of file from its auto-saved copy.</b>                              | M-x recover-file   | ( <b>recover-file</b> FILE)                              | Visit file FILE, but get contents from its last auto-save file.   |
| <b>Recover a session after Emacs crash</b>  | M-x recover-session  | ( <b>recover-session</b> )                               | Recover auto save files from a previous Emacs session. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This command first displays a Dired buffer showing you the previous sessions that you could recover from.</li> <li>• To choose one, move point to the proper line and then type <b>C-c C-c</b>. Then you'll be asked about a number of files to recover.</li> </ul>                                 |
| <a href="#">Backup Files</a>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By default Emacs makes a single backup file for each file edited: a file with the name ending with '~'.</li> <li>• It's also possible to use numbered backups with our without automatic deletion of old ones.</li> <li>• All of this is controlled by <a href="#">backup user options</a>: version-control, kept-new-versions, kept-odd-versions, deleted-old-versions and dired-kept-versions</li> <li>• Emacs has a set of functions that deal with backups but no explicit commands.</li> </ul>   |  |   |
| <a href="#">Compare file with backup</a>  |  |  |   |
| <b>Compare file with its backup</b><br>See also: <a href="#">Diff &amp; Merge</a>     | <f11> d e f k  | ( <b>ediff-backup</b> FILE)                              | Compare a file with its backup. If there are several numerical backups, use the latest. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the file is itself a backup, then compare it with its original.</li> </ul>  |

### Autosave/Backup – References

| Topic & Link  | Description   |
|---|---|
| Emacs Manual - Auto-save                            |   |
| Emacs Manual - Backup Files                         |   |
|   |   |
| How do I reload a file in a buffer? @ StackExchange | Discussion that describes several aspect of reloading a file. |