

# Changing highlight line color in emacs

Asked 10 years, 2 months ago   Modified 5 years, 9 months ago   Viewed 20k times



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I installed emacs 24 and also installed [prelude](#) and I wanted to change the theme from zenburn to tango-dark. But the color that the line is highlighted is yellow and I don't like that. I want it to be like the gray color in zenburn.

The screenshot shows the Emacs editor interface with a C++ file named 'tmp.cpp'. The line 'for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {' is highlighted in yellow. The status bar at the bottom indicates 'All of 539 (24,0) (C++/l guru SScr ws Prjl SP Pre Abbrev) [main]'.

The screenshot shows the same Emacs editor interface with the same C++ file. The line 'for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {' is now highlighted in a light gray color, matching the zenburn theme.



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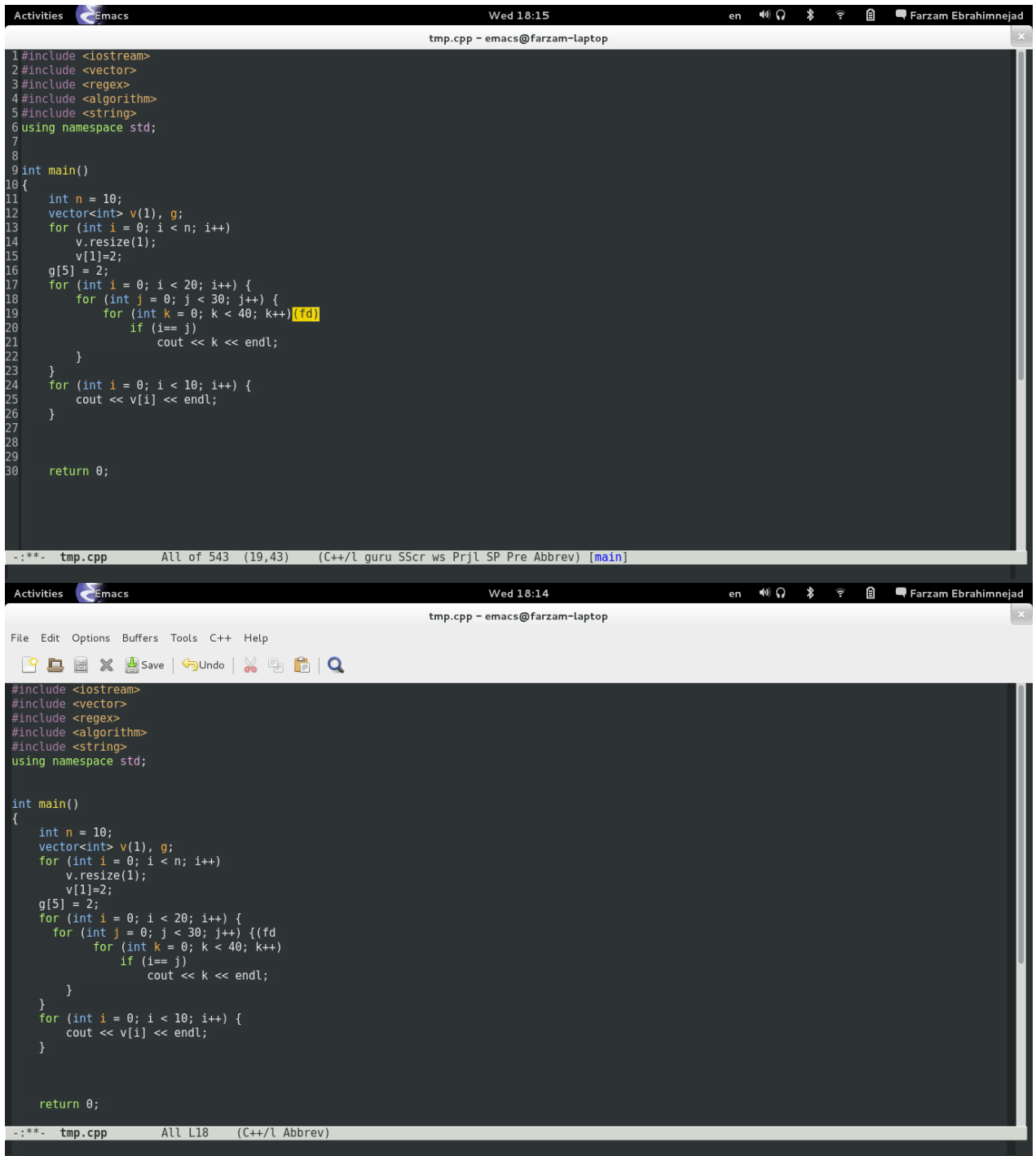
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when I tried that I saw that the space between  
or. (In zenburn theme that didn't happen). I also  
then I run vanilla emacs(sudo emacs) with tango



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11, 2017 at 7:55

raducky

11 25

asked Jul 17, 2013 at 13:49



Farzam

1,272 3 14 25

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{ ~/.emacs , ~/.emacs.el , Or ~/.emacs.d/init.el }



Set any color as the background face of the current line:



```
(set-face-background 'hl-line "#3e4446")
```



To keep syntax highlighting in the current line:



```
(set-face-foreground 'highlight nil)
```

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answered Oct 24, 2013 at 1:20



[soimort](#)

834 1 9 6

That's a no-go. I am also using tomorrow-theme ([github.com/chriskempson/tomorrow-theme](https://github.com/chriskempson/tomorrow-theme)), so that might be influential. In any case, your described method doesn't work. – [dimitarvp](#) Dec 25, 2013 at 22:02

6 @dimitko That should work in at least Emacs 24, only if you put them in the right place - these could have been overridden by your other configurations or installed packages. – [soimort](#) Dec 26, 2013 at 4:43 ✎

1 Yep. I wanted to point that out but wasn't clear enough. The way to solve it is, of course, to move your customizations after the loading / activating of your theme, which wasn't the case in my config . – [dimitarvp](#) Dec 26, 2013 at 10:49

I think the keep-syntax-highlighting command should be `(set-face-foreground 'hl-line nil)` . Is that a typo? – [mkvoya](#) Mar 26, 2017 at 8:16



M-x `customize-face RET hl-line` will help you. Just pick a face you like (you can type the same command with the other theme installed, just to peek the values you like).

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answered Jul 17, 2013 at 14:04



[juanleon](#)

9,220 30 41

Thanks, that solved the first problem but I still have the problem in the third image(yellow highlighting between parentheses). How could I disable that? – [Fawaz](#) Jul 17, 2013 at 14:23



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`show-paren-style` set as `expression` . Use M-x `show-paren-style` (or disable the mode if you don't like it). But I – [juanleon](#) Jul 17, 2013 at 14:40

highlight a particular character. – [Bozhidar Batsov](#) Jul 17,

How could I make it keep the syntax highlighting?(See my

then set the background color of that face, but not the foreground color. That way the foreground color should be the background. That way the foreground color – [Fawaz](#) Jul 18, 2013 at 6:55