

Readline Emacs Editing Mode Cheat Sheet

Default Keyboard Shortcuts for Bash

Shortcut	Function Name	Description
<i>Commands for Moving:</i>		
C-a	beginning-of-line	Move to the beginning of line.
C-e	end-of-line	Move to the end of line.
C-f	forward-char	Move forward a character.
C-b	backward-char	Move back a character.
M-f	forward-word	Move forward a word.
M-b	backward-word	Move backward a word.
C-l	clear-screen	Clear the screen leaving the current line at the top of the screen.
(unbound)	redraw-current-line	Refresh the current line.
<i>Commands for Changing Text:</i>		
C-d	delete-char	Delete one character at point.
Rubout	backward-delete-char	Delete one character backward.
C-q or C-v	quoted-insert	Quoted insert.
M-TAB or M-C-i	tab-insert	Insert a tab character.
a, b, A, 1, !, ...	self-insert	Insert the character typed.
C-t	transpose-chars	Exchange the char before cursor with the character at cursor.
M-t	transpose-words	Exchange the word before cursor with the word at cursor.
M-u	upcase-word	Uppercase the current (or following) word.
M-l	downcase-word	Lowercase the current (or following) word.
M-c	capitalize-word	Capitalize the current (or following) word.
(unbound)	overwrite-mode	Toggle overwrite mode.
<i>Killing and Yanking:</i>		
C-k	kill-line	Kill the text from point to the end of the line.
C-x Rubout	backward-kill-line	Kill backward to the beginning of the line.
C-u	unix-line-discard	Kill backward from point to the beginning of the line.
M-d	kill-word	Kill from point to the end of the current word.
M-Rubout	backward-kill-word	Kill the word behind point.
C-w	unix-word-rubout	Kill the word behind point, using white space as a word boundary.
M-\	delete-horizontal-space	Delete all spaces and tabs around point.
C-y	yank	Yank the top of the kill ring into the buffer at point.
M-y	yank-pop	Rotate the kill ring, and yank the new top.
(unbound)	kill-whole-line	Kill all characters on the current line.
(unbound)	kill-region	Kill the text between the point and mark.
(unbound)	copy-region-as-kill	Copy the text in the region to the kill buffer.
(unbound)	copy-backward-word	Copy the word before point to the kill buffer.
(unbound)	copy-forward-word	Copy the word following point to the kill buffer.
<i>Keyboard Macros:</i>		
C-x (start-kbd-macro	Begin saving the chars typed into the current keyboard macro.
C-x)	end-kbd-macro	End saving the chars typed into the current keyboard macro.
C-x e	call-last-kbd-macro	Re-execute the last keyboard macro defined.

Shortcut	Function Name	Description
<i>Commands for Manipulating the History:</i>		
R Return	accept-line	Accept the line regardless of where the cursor is.
C-p	previous-history	Fetch the previous command from the history list.
C-n	next-history	Fetch the next command from the history list.
M-<	beginning-of-history	Move to the first line in the history.
M->	end-of-history	Move to the end of the input history (current line).
C-r	reverse-search-history	Search backward starting at the current line (incremental).
C-s	forward-search-history	Search forward starting at the current line (incremental).
M-p	non-incremental-reverse-search-history	Search backward using non-incremental search.
M-n	non-incremental-forward-search-history	Search forward using non-incremental search.
M-C-y	yank-nth-arg	Insert the n-th argument to the previous command at point.
M-. or M_-	yank-last-arg	Insert the last argument to the previous command.
(unbound)	history-search-backward	Search forward for a string between start of line and point.
(unbound)	history-search-forward	Search backward for a string between start of line and point.
<i>Completing:</i>		
TAB	complete	Attempt to perform completion on the text before point.
M-?	possible-completions	List the possible completions of the text before point.
M-*	insert-completions	Insert all completions of the text before point generated by possible-completions .
(unbound)	menu-complete	Similar to complete but replaces the word with the first match.
(unbound)	delete-char-or-list	Deletes the car if not at the beginning of line or acts like possible-completions at the end of the line.
<i>Miscellaneous:</i>		
C-x C-r	re-read-init-file	Read and execute the contents of inputrc file.
C-g	abort	Abort the current editing command and ring the terminal's bell.
M-a, M-b, M-x, ...	do-uppercase-version	If the metafield char x is lowercase, run the command that is bound to uppercase char.
ESC	prefix-meta	Metafy the next character typed. For example, ESC-p is equivalent to Meta-p .
C-_ or C-x C-u	undo	Incremental undo, separately remembered for each line.
M-r	revert-line	Undo all changes made to this line.
M-&	tilde-expand	Perform tilde expansion on the current word.
C-@ or M-<space>	set-mark	Set the mark to the point.
C-x C-x	exchange-point-and-mark	Swap the point with the mark.
C-]	character-search	Move to the next occurrence of current character under cursor.
M-C-]	character-search-backward	Move to the previous occurrence of current character under cursor.
M-#	insert-comment	Without argument line is commented, with argument uncommented (if it was commented).
C-e	emacs-editing-mode	When in vi mode, switch to emacs mode.
M-C-j	vi-editing-mode	When in emacs mode, switch to vi mode.
M-0, M-1, ..., M-	digit-argument	Specify the digit to the argument. M- starts a negative argument.
(unbound)	dump-functions	Print all of the functions and their key bindings.
(unbound)	dump-variables	Print all of the settable variables and their values.
(unbound)	dump-macros	Print all of the key sequences bound to macros.
(unbound)	universal-argument	Either sets argument or multiplies the current argument by 4.