

The Hacker Within: The Org-mode for the Disorganised

Chen Wei Zhu (Birmingham Law School)

13:00pm, 20 May 2019 (UG05 Murray Learning Centre)

Beginning: Emacs installation

- ▶ cross-platform: Linux/Mac/ Windows
- ▶ Linux distros (e.g. Manajaro, MX Linux, Ubuntu etc.)
- ▶ [e.g.] install emacs26 on Ubuntu from ppa:kellyk/emacs

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:kellyk/emacs -y  
sudo apt-get update  
sudo apt install emacs26
```

Part I Introducing Org-mode SLIDE

What is Org-mode? SLIDE

- ▶ "Org mode is for keeping notes, maintaining TODO lists, planning projects, and authoring documents with a fast and effective plain-text system."
- ▶ initiated by Carsten Dominik in 2003
- ▶ maintained by Bastien Guerry and developed by many others
- ▶ see <https://orgmode.org/>

Why Org-mode? (some reasons...) SLIDE

- ▶ note-taking + task management + publishing
- ▶ plain text + markup language
- ▶ cross-platform
- ▶ synchronisation among devices

Org-mode vs Evernote/Onenote SLIDE

- ▶ open formate vs proprietary format
- ▶ importance of "grep-ability" (for regular expression search)
- ▶ note-taking and drafting for writing projects

Org-mode vs Markdown SLIDE

- ▶ bullet point: * versus #
- ▶ task management (esp. agenda view)
- ▶ evaluating code blocks
- ▶ citation /bibliographical management (e.g. integration with Zotero)

Demonstration SLIDE

Org-mode Basics SLIDE

- ▶ Bullet points (a bit like markdown): using **asterisks**
- ▶ folding & unfolding: TAB
- ▶ moving trees/subtrees/paragraphs: Alt + arrow keys (up & down)
- ▶ assign task priority: Shift + arrows keys (up & down)

Scheduling tasks SLIDE

- ▶ key chord: Ctrl-x C-s
- ▶ select a calendar date: Shift + arrow keys
- ▶ enter a time: e.g. 1pm
- ▶ change date/time: Shift + arrow keys (NB: the time duration will remain the same)

Set deadlines SLIDE

- ▶ key chord: C-x C-d
- ▶ select a calendar date
- ▶ finish a task in three weeks' time [enter: "+3w"]

Scheduling tasks (examples) SLIDE

TODO [#A] give a talk on org-mode at THW

IN-PROGRESS [#A] give a talk at THW

TODO [#A] mark/feedback on student essays

DONE [#B] read Walter Benjamin's Book *Illumination*

Customising the TODO sequence

```
#+SEQ_TODO: TODO(t) IN-PROGRESS(p) WAITING(w) | DONE(d)
```

Agenda view SLIDE

- ▶ Alt-x: org-agenda-file-to-front /or/using the key chord: Ctrl-c [
- ▶ Alt-x:org-agenda /or/using the key chord: Ctrl-c a (e.g. in Spacemacs)
- ▶ in the agenda view

f	forward
b	back
q	quit

Org-mode Table SLIDE

column1	column2	column3
stallman	torvalds	gosling
gnu	linux	java

- ▶ swap columns/rows: Alt + arrow keys

Evaluate code block (org-babel) SLIDE

- ▶ literate programming
- ▶ `<s TAB`

Python SLIDE

```
word = "The Hacker Within Meeting today 20 May 2019"  
for char in word:  
    print (char)  
    print (" ")
```

Shell command

```
echo today is `date`
```

```
echo "## level 2" | pandoc
```

Emacs lisp SLIDE

```
(car '(1,2,3,4))
```

Org-mode easy templates

s	#+BEGIN _{SRC} ... #+END _{SRC}
q	#+BEGIN _{QUOTE} ... #+END _{QUOTE}
c	#+BEGIN _{CENTER} ... #+END _{CENTER}
C	#+BEGIN _{COMMENT} ... #+END _{COMMENT}

Part II Spacemacs + Org-mode SLIDE

Emacs configuration files

1. `~/.emacs`
2. `~/.emacs.el`
3. `~/.emacs.d/init.el`

Spacemacs installation SLIDE

- ▶ download spacemacs into ~/.emacs.d/

```
$ git clone https://github.com/syl20bnr/spacemacs  
~/.emacs.d
```

- ▶ ~/.emacs.d/
- ▶ ~/.spacemacs

Spacemacs configuration SLIDE

M-m f e d	~/ .spacemacs
M-m f e R	reload spacemacs
M-m f e D	.spacemacs diff mode

- ▶ NB: M-m (emacs keybiding) = SPC (evil mode)
- ▶ Set the scratch buffer (from the text-mode) to lisp-interaction-mode or any mode you like

Useful spacemacs layers

- ▶ org
- ▶ bibtex
- ▶ markdown
- ▶ deft (a mode emulating notational velocity)
- ▶ zotero (private layer)

Org layer keybinding (random examples) SLIDE

- ▶ Pomodoro clock: SPC m p
- ▶ Org-present: SPC SPC org-present (or Alt+m org-present)

Key Binding	Description
h	previous slide
l	next slide
q	quit

spacemacs zotero layer (a private layer) SLIDE

- ▶ install zotxt in zotero & eamcs:
<https://github.com/egh/zotxt/releases>
<https://melpa.org/#/zotxt> ("Tools to integrate emacs with Zotero via the zotxt plugin")
- ▶ create a private layer: "Alt-x configuration-layer/create-layer"
- ▶ download the below two files from this link:
<https://github.com/psamim/dotfiles/tree/master/spacemacs/private/psamim-org-zotero> download `packages.el` and `README.org` into `~/.emacs.d/private/psamim-org-zotero`
- ▶ add the `psamim-org-zotero` layer to `~/.spacemacs`

summary: some useful spacemacs key chords SLIDE

- ▶ Undo: C-/
- ▶ Undo Tree: C-x u ("q" for quit)
- ▶ Exporting to PDF: C-c C-e (l) (p)
- ▶ Org-zotex-mode: Alt-m m z i (zotero insert)
- ▶ Deft: Alt-m a n
- ▶ Pandoc: Alt-m P /

Thank you

```
#+TITLE: The Org-mode for the Disorganised
#+AUTHOR: Chen Wei Zhu (Birmingham Law School)
#+EMAIL: c.w.zhu@bham.ac.uk
#+DATE: 13:00pm, 20 May 2019 (UG05 Murray Learning Centre)
#+LICENCE: Creative Commons--Attribution 4.0 International
```