

Help and Extra Commands

^_ Help
ESC-x Execute extended command
^X-l Info
^X-m Send mail
^X-r Mail
^L Redraw display
^q Inserts next character into buffer without interpreting it as a command ie. for inserting control characters like ^l and ^c into a file

Emacs Tutorial

There is an on-line tutorial file which can be run to learn how to use Emacs.

To run this tutorial, type

^_ t

Key Bindings

Any key or key sequence can be assigned to any Emacs command. To see a list of all the bindings currently in use, type

ESC-x describe-bindings

or

^_ k

For temporary key bindings (for current editing only)

Use

ESC-x bind-to-key <command-name> <keystroke(s)>

For permanent key bindings (until reset)

Put a line in the format

(bind-to-key "<command-name>" "<keystroke(s)>")

in the file .emacs_pro in your home directory.

eg.

(bind-to-key "kill-to-start-of-line" "\033^a")

where 033 means the ESC key and ^ means the CTRL key.

Notation

buffer

er Text being edited is placed in a buffer (working environment).

window A display area of the screen. Each window displays part of a particular buffer.

dot An invisible point occurring between the cursor and the character to the cursor's left.

mark An invisible position in a buffer, set using ^@ or ESC-<space>.

region An area of the buffer in between the mark and the dot.

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UNIX EMACS V2.10

UniPress Software, Inc

To run Emacs, type:

emacs [[options] [filename]] ...

The changes made to a file must be saved before leaving Emacs. If this is not done the changes are lost.

For further details on the use of Emacs, see the UNIX Reference Manual.

Mrs L J Reed
R1 1.64

EMACS (UNIX)

Emacs commands start with either:

The <ESCAPE> key, followed by another key,
eg ESC f or

The <CONTROL> key, pressed simultaneously with another key
eg ^f

The following commands are the most useful available

Commands which move the Cursor

^F Move forward one character
^B Move backward one character

ESC-f Move forward one word
ESC-b Move backward one word

^A Move to beginning of line
^E Move to end of line

^N Move down one line
^P Move up one line

ESC-a Move to beginning of sentence
ESC-e Move to end of sentence

ESC-[Move backward one paragraph
ESC-] Move forward one paragraph

^V Move forward one page
ESC-v Move backward one page

ESC-< Move to beginning of file
ESC-> Move to end of file

Commands which Perform Window Manipulation

ESC-, Move to beginning of window
ESC-. Move to end of window

^Z Scroll one line up
ESC-z Scroll one line down

^X-n Move to next window
^X-p Move to previous window
^X-t Move to top window

^X-d Delete window
^X-l Delete other windows
^X-2 Split current window

^X-z Enlarge window
^X-^Z Shrink window

Commands which Re-execute Commands

ESC-n <command> Execute command n times
^U-n <command> Execute command n times
(default 4)

Commands which Kill and Delete Text

^D Delete current character
^H Delete previous character
BACKSPACE Delete previous character
DEL Delete previous character

ESC-d Delete next word
ESC-h Delete previous word

^K Kill to end of line

ESC-k Kill to end of sentence
^X-DEL Kill to beginning of sentence

ESC-\ Delete white space on either side
of dot

ESC-x flush-lines Delete all lines containing regular
expression eg. ^\$ to remove all
blank lines

Commands which Perform File Manipulation

^X-^F Read file into new buffer
^X-^R Read file into current buffer
^X-^V Read file into new buffer

ESC-x insert-file Insert named file at dot in current
buffer

^X-^S Write file under current filename
^X-^W Write file under specified filename
^X-^M Write modified files

Commands which Search

^S Search forward for string
^R Search backward for string
ESC-q Search and query replace string
ESC-r Search and replace string

ESC-x re-search-forward Search forward for regular
expression

ESC-x re-search-reverse Search backward for regular
expression

ESC-x re-query-replace-string Search and query replace
regular expression

ESC-x re-replace-string Search and replace regular
expression

Commands which Perform Case Conversion

ESC-c Capitalize first letter of word

ESC-l Change word to lowercase
ESC-u Change word to uppercase

ESC-^ Invert case of word
ESC-^^ Invert case of region

Commands which Format

^T Transpose two characters
before cursor
ESC-t Transpose two words
either side of cursor

^I Tab
^X-^I Indent region
ESC-J Justify paragraph
ESC-s Centre line
^O Insert blank line

Commands which Abort and Undo

^G Abort command
^X-^U Undo last command

Commands which Exit

^C Exit Emacs
^X-^C Exit Emacs

ESC-x write-file-exit Write file under current
filename and exit Emacs

Commands which Execute UNIX Commands

^X-! Execute shell command

Commands which Affect Marks and Regions

^e Set mark
ESC-SPACE Set mark
^X-^X Exchange dot and mark
^X-h Mark whole buffer

^W Delete region to killbuffer
ESC-w Copy region to killbuffer

ESC-^W Delete region to buffer

Commands which Manipulate Buffers

^X-^B List all buffers
^X-^D Describe word in buffer

^X-^O Use old buffer
ESC-- Make buffer unmodified
^X-b Switch to buffer

ESC-^Y Yank buffer
^Y Yank from killbuffer

Commands which Affect Keyboard Macros

^X-(start-remembering
^X-) stop-remembering
^X-e execute-keyboard-macro

All these commands also apply to GNU emacs. GNU emacs will give slightly different messages and prompts. Any other differences are noted for the commands concerned.

GENERAL TERMINOLOGY

C- A control character. C-F means "control F".
M- The ESC key as a prefix. M-F means ESC then F.
M-x name The M-x key prompts for a command *name* in the echo area at *x*, then `read-file`, then RET.
point The current position of the cursor in the current buffer.
mark An invisible set position in the buffer used by region commands.
region The area of a buffer between the point and the mark.
C-u Provide a numeric argument to the command that follows.

QUITTING AND ABORTING

C-z Return to shell or run subshell/CLI (`suspend-emacs`).
C-x C-c Finish editing (`save-buffers-kill-emacs`).
C-g Cancel running or partially typed command (`keyboard-quit`).
C-x u Cancel an already-executed command (`undo`) (GNU only).

INSERTING

alphanumeric

All alphanumeric keys are directly inserted in the current buffer at the current location of point (except in a few unusual GNU emacs modes) (`self-insert`).

RET Insert a newline (`newline`).
TAB Add spaces to the next tab stop `self-insert`. In GNU emacs text mode TAB is bound to (`tab-to-tab-stop`) which does the same thing. In other GNU emacs modes TAB indents the current line "appropriately" in a mode-dependent fashion.
LF Perform RET followed by TAB (`newline-and-indent`).
DEL Delete the character before the cursor (`delete-backward-char`).
C-q Insert the next character in the current buffer at point, ignoring the command it's bound to (`quoted-insert`).

MINIBUFFER

SPC Complete the command in the minibuffer up to the end of the current word, if possible.
RET Submit the text in the minibuffer as a command or argument.
C-u Delete the text in the minibuffer (Microemacs only).
C-g Abort the current command.
 GNU emacs minibuffer commands are generally more powerful than the Microemacs equivalents.

FILE HANDLING

C-x C-f Visit a file (`find-file`).
C-x C-v Visit a different file instead of the one visited last (`find-alternate-file`).
M-x set-visited-file-name
 Mark the current buffer as visiting a specified file.
C-x 4 C-f
 Visit a file, in another window (`find-file-other-window`). Don't change this window (GNU only).
C-x C-s Save the current buffer in its visited file (`save-buffer`).
C-x C-w Save the current buffer in a specified file, and record that file as the one visited in the buffer (`write-file`).

MOVING ABOUT

C-a Move to the beginning of the line (`beginning-of-line`).
C-e Move to the end of the line (`end-of-line`).
C-f Move forward one character (`forward-char`).
C-b Move backward one character (`backward-char`).
M-f Move forward over a word (`forward-word`).
M-b Move backward over a word (`backward-word`).
M-d Kill up to the end of a word (`kill-word`).
M-DEL Kill back to the beginning of a word (`backward-kill-word`).
C-n Move down one line, vertically (`next-line`). This command attempts to keep the horizontal position unchanged, so if you start in the middle of one line, you end in the middle of the next. When on the last line of text, C-n creates a new line and moves onto it.
C-p Move up one line, vertically (`previous-line`).
M-x track-beginning-of-line
 Move to the beginning of the current line. If already at the beginning of the current line, move to the beginning of the next line.
M-x track-end-of-line
 Move to the end of the current line. If already at the end of the current line, move to the end of the next line.
C-l Clear the screen and reprint everything (`recenter`).
C-t Transpose two characters, the ones before and after the cursor (`transpose-chars`).
C-v Scroll forward (a windowful or a specified number of lines) (`scroll-up`).
M-v Scroll backward (`scroll-down`).
M-x scroll-to-bottom
 Scroll the current window until the current line is at the bottom.
M-x scroll-to-top
 Scroll the current window until the current line is at the top.
M-< Move to the top of the buffer (`beginning-of-buffer`). With numeric argument *n*, move to *n*/10 of the way from the top.
M-> Move to the end of the buffer (`end-of-buffer`).
M-x goto-line
 Read a number *n* and move cursor to line number *n*. Line 1 is the beginning of the buffer.

DELETING & KILLING

DEL Delete the character before the cursor (`delete-backward-char`).
C-d Delete the character after the cursor (`delete-char`).
C-k Kill to the end of the line (`kill-line`).
M-d Kill word (`kill-word`).
M-DEL Kill word backwards (`backward-kill-word`).
M-x backward-kill-line
 Kill to the beginning of the line.
C-w Kill region (from point to the mark) (`kill-region`).
M-w Save region as last killed text without actually killing it (`copy-region-as-kill`).
C-o Insert one or more blank lines after the cursor (`open-line`).
C-x C-o Delete all but one of many consecutive blank lines (`delete-blank-lines`).

INFORMATION & HELP

C-x = Print character code of character after point, character position of point, and column of point (`what-cursor-position`).
C-h key
 Print the name of the command that *key* runs (`help`). In GNU emacs this command is called `describe-key-briefly` and is bound to C-h *key*.
M-x describe-bindings
 Display a table of all key bindings currently in effect.

KEY BINDINGS

- M-x global-set-key RET *key cmd* RET
Defines *key* to run *cmd*.
- M-x local-set-key RET *key cmd* RET
Defines *key* locally (in the major mode now in effect) to run *cmd* (GNU only).

BUFFERS

- C-x b *buffer* RET
Select or create a buffer named *buffer* (switch-to-buffer).
- C-x 4 b *buffer* RET
Similar but select a buffer named *buffer* in another window (switch-to-buffer-other-window) (GNU only).
- C-x C-b List the existing buffers (list-buffers).
- C-x k Kill a buffer, specified by name (kill-buffer).

WINDOWS

- C-x o Select another window (other-window). That is o, not zero.
- C-x 1 Get rid of all windows except the selected one (delete-other-windows).
- C-x 2 Split the selected window in two, one window above the other (split-window-vertically).
- C-x ~ Make the selected window taller, at the expense of the other(s) (enlarge-window).
- M-x beginning-of-window
Move to the beginning of the current window.
- M-x end-of-window
Move to the end of the current window.
- C-M-v Scroll the next window (scroll-other-window) (GNU emacs only).

SEARCHING

- C-s Search forward (search-forward). GNU emacs uses an incremental search; type C-s ESC to get an ordinary search.
- C-r Search backward (search-backward). GNU emacs uses an incremental search; type C-r ESC to get an ordinary search.
- M-% RET *string* RET *newstring* RET
Replace some occurrences of *string* with *newstring* (query-replace). Microemacs shows each occurrence of the search string and asks you if you want to replace or not. Type SPC to replace, DEL for no replacement, ! to replace all remaining occurrences without prompting again or C-g to quit the command.

To repeat a search for the same string, call the appropriate command and type RET when it prompts for the search string.

KEYBOARD MACROS

- C-x (Start defining a keyboard macro (start-kbd-macro).
- C-x) End the definition of a keyboard macro (end-kbd-macro).
- C-x e Execute the most recent keyboard macro (call-last-kbd-macro).

SETTING THE MARK

- C-M Set the mark where point is (set-mark-command).
- C-SPC The same (some terminals only).
- C-x C-x Interchange mark and point (exchange-point-and-mark).

CHANGING CASE

- M-l Convert next word to lower case (downcase-word).
- M-u Convert next word to all upper case (upcase-word).
- M-c Convert next word to lower case with capital initial (downcase-word).
- C-x C-l Convert region to lower case.
- C-x C-u Convert region to upper case.

Default function key bindings for the vc220/wyse75/wyse85.

Arrows: The obvious definitions: backward-char, next-line, forward-char, previous-line.

Editing Keys:

- Find isearch-forward
- Insert Here yank
- Remove kill-region
- Select set-mark-command
- Prev Screen scroll-down
- Next Screen scroll-up

Top row keys:

- F6 undo
- F7 search-forward
- F8 search-backward
- F9 query-replace
- F10 global-set-key
- F11 ESC-prefix
- F12 Control-X-prefix
- F13 ctl-x-4-prefix
- F14 universal-argument

- Help help-for-help
- Do call-last-kbd-macro

- F17 find-file
- F18 set-visited-file-name
- F19 save-buffer
- F20 buffer-menu

PF1	PF2	PF3	PF4
beginning-of- buffer	end-of-buffer	switch-to- buffer	goto-line
7	8	9	-
beginning-of- window	end-of-window	other-window	quoted-insert
4	5	6	,
track-beginning -of-line	track-end- of-line	backward-kill- line	kill-line
1	2	3	Enter
backward-word	forward-word	backward-kill- word	
0	.		
scroll-to-top		set-mark- command	scroll-to- bottom