What is Emacs?

Emacs (pronounced eee-max) is a text editor available on HPC Wales which was originally developed by Richard Stallman in 1976 while he was at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Emacs was designed to run on local terminals connected to a PDP-6 and is known as the "extensible, customizable, self-documenting, real-time display editor". Emacs is not part of the Linux standard base specification so it may not be installed on other Linux systems you may have access to.

Using Emacs

To use emacs on HPC Wales you must logon to a head node such as ab-log-001, rather than the main login server login.hpcwales.co.uk. You can only use it in graphical mode; to use graphical mode, you must first logon to HPC Wales and then run up an X server on your local workstation. To logon to HPC Wales you can use PuTTY, whereas to run an X server on your local workstation you can use Xming. Please read the documentation before installing either software package and you can download PuTTY and Xming for free and install them on your computer.

Getting Started

To begin editing a new file type "`emacs`" at the command prompt

Then type "`CTRL-x, CTRL-f`"

Then type "`path/to/file`", hit enter, and begin typing

Then type "`CTRL-x, CTRL-s`" to save the file

Then type "`CTRL-x, CTRL-c`" to quit emacs

Starting Emacs

Command	Description
`emacs`	run emacs
`emacs /home/user/myfile.txt`	run emacs and open myfile.txt

Leaving Emacs

Command	Description
`CTRL-x, CTRL-c`	quit emacs
`CTRL-x, CTRL-s`	save open file

File Operations

Command	Description
`CTRL-x, CTRL-f, /home/user/myfile.txt`	find and open myfile.txt (tab completion works)
`CTRL-x, CTRL-s`	save open file

Cursor Operations

Command	Description
`ESC-f`	move forwards one word
`ESC-b`	move backwards one word
`CTRL-a`	move to the beginning of the line
`CTRL-e`	move to the end of the line
`ESC-a`	move backwards one sentence
`ESC-e`	move forwards one sentence
`ESC-{`	move backwards one paragraph
`ESC-}`	move forwards one paragraph

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Edit Operations

Command	Description
`CTRL-x, u`	undo
`ESC-d`	kill (cut) a word
`CTRL-k`	kill (cut) a line
`CTRL-w`	kill (cut) highlighted region
`ESC-w`	kill (copy) highlighted region
`CTRL-y`	yank (paste) highlighted region

Search and Replace

Command	Description
`CTRL-s`	search forwards for instances of string entered at prompt
`CTRL-r`	search backwards for instances of string entered at prompt
`ESC-SHIFT-5`	interactively replace string entered at prompt with next string
`<space>`	replace text and find next occurrence
`<del>`	leave text and find next occurrence
`.`	replace text then stop looking
`!`	replace all occurrences without asking again

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Getting Help

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CTRL-h
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References

`man emacs`	Command line documentation
GNU Emacs, Pocket Reference	**http://openisbn.com/isbn/1565924967/**

Downloading

You can download a version to run on your local workstation from

http://ftp.gnu.org/pub/gnu/emacs/windows/

Contact us on **support@hpcwales.co.uk** or for further information please visit our website **www.hpcwales.co.uk**

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