

# Emacs Guide

Taylor Venable

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## Abstract

How to do a lot of things in Emacs.

## Contents

Typographical Conventions	4
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 Sources of Help . . . . .	4
<b>I Emacs Guide</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2 Getting To Know Emacs</b>	<b>5</b>
2.1 Swap Those Control & Caps Lock Keys! . . . . .	5
2.1.1 Using xmodmap . . . . .	5
2.1.2 Using setxkbmap . . . . .	6
2.1.3 Swapping Control And Caps Lock On The BSD Virtual Terminal . . . . .	6
<b>3 Unicode &amp; XFT Support</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4 Fontifying Special Words</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5 Handling A Bunch Of Major Modes</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6 Using Exuberant Ctags for Speedbar</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7 Mail, USENET, and IRC</b>	<b>9</b>
7.1 Reading Mail Messages . . . . .	9
7.2 Sending Mail Messages . . . . .	10
7.3 Mail Aliases . . . . .	11
7.4 NNTP Troubles . . . . .	12

<b>8</b>	<b>The Emacs Multimedia System</b>	<b>12</b>
8.1	Installation . . . . .	12
8.2	Keybindings . . . . .	13
8.3	Players . . . . .	13
8.4	Modeline Display . . . . .	13
8.4.1	Track Description . . . . .	13
8.5	Adding Tracks from Dired . . . . .	14
8.6	Metadata Loading . . . . .	14
<b>II</b>	<b>Implementation</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Pre-Load Setup</b>	<b>15</b>
9.1	Load Path . . . . .	16
9.2	Conditional Load Variables . . . . .	16
9.3	Info Directories . . . . .	16
<b>10</b>	<b>Major Mode Setup</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Other Packages to Load</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Personal Variables</b>	<b>20</b>
12.1	X11 Fonts . . . . .	20
12.2	Outline Fonts . . . . .	21
<b>13</b>	<b>Utility Functions</b>	<b>25</b>
13.1	Hex Decoding . . . . .	25
13.2	Longest Line . . . . .	25
13.3	Protected Require . . . . .	26
<b>14</b>	<b>File Management</b>	<b>26</b>
14.1	Boilerplate & Templates . . . . .	26
14.2	Executable Scripts . . . . .	27
14.3	Coding Conventions . . . . .	27
14.4	Path Functions . . . . .	27
14.5	Find Changes File . . . . .	28
14.6	Add Changes Entry . . . . .	28
<b>15</b>	<b>Major Mode Customization</b>	<b>29</b>
15.1	All Modes . . . . .	30
15.2	C Mode . . . . .	30
15.3	Emacs Lisp Mode . . . . .	31
15.4	Java Mode . . . . .	31
15.5	Haskell Mode . . . . .	31
15.6	HTML Mode . . . . .	31
15.7	L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X Mode . . . . .	31

15.8 Python Mode . . . . .	32
15.9 Ruby Mode . . . . .	32
15.10 Scala Mode . . . . .	32
15.11 Org Mode . . . . .	32
<b>16 Server</b>	<b>33</b>

# Typographical Conventions

- Standards are presented in a sans-serif face.

## 1 Introduction

Emacs (short for Editing Macros, or sometimes alternatively, Escape Meta Alt Control Shift) are probably the most powerful editors ever created by humankind. It is the Evangelion of programmers' programmable editors. You can use it to write code, read email, and perform psycho-analysis. Emacs can even save your soul if you choose to embrace it. So why exactly is Emacs so great?

“Calling EMACS an editor is like calling Earth a hunk of dirt.”

— Chris DiBona

Well, it's mostly because Emacs is written largely in its own dialect of Lisp, and as such has at its core a specialized Lisp interpreter. This causes it to weigh in a bit heavily (the CVS version with full debugging can run at over 48 MB of RAM after some extended use) but also gives the benefit of being extensible to an unprecedented level. Some view this as being a bad thing, and happily stick with slimmer editors like vi. I myself am perfectly alright with memory usage in the 32 to 64 meg range, because frankly I think it's more than worth it. Now, I have used both Emacs and Vim for several years, and I still frequently use Vim for quick editing. But when I really get down to development brass tacks, it's GNU Emacs that I choose.

The Emacs configuration file, read at startup to restore user customizations, is interpreted in Emacs Lisp. As a result, writing complex configurations requires some knowledge of how Emacs Lisp works. If you've ever used a functional programming language before, like Scheme or Common Lisp, you'll find that Emacs Lisp is quite similar in terms of language architecture. The only big differences are the wide variety of specialized functions available in Emacs Lisp. As I've been working hard on trying to master Emacs, I've got a nice little configuration file built up from my experiments. Go ahead and use it to follow along with these examples, or as a basis for your own Emacs customization files. (Please note that some of the examples below have been refactored and in some cases combined in my configuration file.) Sites About Emacs

For those new to Emacs, here are a few websites that describe the editor family (and specific implementations) in more detail:

\* [Wikipedia Page](#) \* [GNU Emacs Project](#) \* [EmacsWiki](#)

### 1.1 Sources of Help

For help using Emacs, there are many options. One is to use the mailing list for whatever version you're using. Those with GNU Emacs can use [help-gnu-emacs@gnu.org](mailto:help-gnu-emacs@gnu.org). Those interested in posting bugs or reading more internal news, subscribe to [emacs-devel@gnu.org](mailto:emacs-devel@gnu.org). If you're using an Emacs project, such as the GNUS mail and news reader, try subscribing to that project's mailing list: [ding@gnus.org](mailto:ding@gnus.org).

There is also an IRC channel on FreeNode: #emacs. Numerous other Emacs projects have IRC channels as well, for example #gnus (also on FreeNode).

## Part I

# Emacs Guide

## 2 Getting To Know Emacs

The greatness of Emacs can, to the uninitiated, be astonishing to the point of paralysis. Where does one get started? Well, first you've got to learn the keystrokes. When you see "C-x" that means hold the control key and press x. The upper-case C here is called an accelerator. Another popular accelerator is "M" for meta (that is, Alt for most people or Option for Apple users). If you want to, you can prefix the next keystroke by pressing escape, rather than holding down meta. In the event of a longer keystroke sequence, like "C-x C-f" just do the first stroke then perform the second stroke. Simple, right?

To really start learning Emacs, try hitting "C-h t" for the Emacs learn-by-doing tutorial. Once you've worked your way through that, you're pretty much good to start editing. Because Emacs is entirely self-documenting, help can be obtained at any time for nearly any function, variable, or keybinding. For example, to find out what keys currently do what, type "C-h b" (all the help keybindings start with "C-h"). And then that's pretty much it. You can happily type your day away and whenever you get stuck, just invoke one of these help keystrokes to find out what your mind is lacking.

### 2.1 Swap Those Control & Caps Lock Keys!

After a few days of otherwise joyful Emacs use, you may find that your pinky finger screams in anguish every time you reach for the control key. Since Emacs makes frequent use of control sequences, avoiding pain and the danger of repetitive injury strain (an ailment that afflicts some of the greatest Unix hackers) is very important. Nearly all real Unix keyboards (like the incredibly cool Happy Hacking Keyboard) put the all-important control key on the home row to help alleviate these problems, but PC keyboards annoyingly stick the control key in the very farthest corners, making life worse for Emacs users. But if you're on Unix, fixing this problem is easy: just remap the keys!

#### 2.1.1 Using xmodmap

If you're using the X window system, you can use the xmodmap program to remap your keyboard. Doing this is fairly straight forward, just place the following lines into your `~/ .xmodmaprc` file:

```
! swap left control and caps lock

remove Lock = Caps_Lock
remove Control = Control_L

keysym Control_L = Caps_Lock
keysym Caps_Lock = Control_L

add Lock = Caps_Lock
add Control = Control_L
```

Now add the following line to your `.xinitrc` or `.xsession` file: `"xmodmap /xmodmaprc"`. The next time you start X, pressing your left control key will set the caps lock, and holding the caps lock key will set the control accelerator. Yippie!

### 2.1.2 Using setxkbmap

The program `setxkbmap` can do a lot of cool things, including swapping the Control and Caps Lock keys. To do so, use the following incantation:

```
setxkbmap -option ctrl:swapcaps
```

### 2.1.3 Swapping Control And Caps Lock On The BSD Virtual Terminal

To switch the functions of your caps lock and control keys on the BSD virtual terminal, you need to play with the keymap used by the console system in use. On systems like NetBSD and OpenBSD using `wscn` can very easily do this through the `wscnctl` program. English keyboard layouts have builtin options for swapping the caps lock and control keys. These are specified with the extension `".swapctrlcaps"` to the normal keymap. To use them, set the keyboard encoding value in NetBSD like so: `"wscnctl -w encoding=us.swapctrlcaps"` or in OpenBSD like this: `"wscnctl keyboard.encoding=us.swapctrlcaps"`.

If on the other hand, you happen to be using `syscons` on FreeBSD, the process is a little more involved, but still very easy. Just find the file that corresponds to the keymap you are currently using in the `/usr/share/syscons/keymaps` directory. Copy this file and swap the lines that indicate the left control and caps lock keys. If you're using the US ISO keymap, left control is keycode 029 and caps lock is keycode 058. Swap these code values so that caps lock is set to code 029 and left control is code 058. Then save the result into a new file in the same directory, maybe with a name like `"us.swapctrlcaps.kbd"`. Now use `kbdcontrol` to install the new keymap: `"kbdcontrol -l us.swapctrlcaps"`. If you're shy about editing important files (what?) then you can download my swapped keymap based on the US ISO keymap.

## 3 Unicode & XFT Support

The very latest development version of Emacs (this has a version number starting with 23) has continued new Unicode support, as well as experimental support for XFT fonts. To check out these developments and see how they work for your system, first check out the code from CVS, using the `emacs-unicode-2` branch.

```
cvs -z3 -d:pserver:anonymous@cvs.savannah.gnu.org:/sources/emacs co -r emacs-unicode-2 emacs
```

Now run `./configure` like usual, but make sure to add the options that enable XFT fonts. To do this, you must be building with GTK support. Then add the options `-enable-font-backend` and `-with-xft`. Lastly, build like usual (using `make bootstrap` and `make install`).

You also need to enable XFT support at runtime by passing the `-enable-font-backend` support to Emacs when you start it. (Note: In 23.0.50 and newer, you no longer have to supply this option at run time.) You'll also have to set the font, either by passing it on the command line (via the `-font` option) or through your X resources file. To use the latter method, put the following into your `.Xresources` file and run `xrdb` like usual:

```
Emacs.font: DejaVu Sans Mono-10
```

Now sit back and enjoy those beautiful smoothed fonts!

## 4 Fontifying Special Words

Vim and some other editors have builtin support for highlighting special words like TODO and FIXME in source code files. It's somewhat surprising, considering everything can do right out of the box, that Emacs doesn't have this feature by default. But like pretty much anything else in Emacs you can add it yourself with little hassle.

Essentially, what you have to do is add a special font-lock keyword for the phrases you want to highlight. This is easily enough done with the `font-lock-add-keywords` function, but we run into a little problem when using this method. It can only change one mode at a time! Now it's Lisp to the rescue with the `mapcar` function, which takes a given function and applies it to each element in a given list. Remembering to set up a separate face for our special words first, we can do something like this:

```
(make-face 'special-words)
(set-face-attribute 'special-words nil
                  :foreground "White" :background "Firebrick")
(let ((prog-modes '( c-mode c++-mode java-mode ada-mode sh-mode tcl-mode
                   cperl-mode python-mode ruby-mode lisp-mode ))
      (pattern "\\<\\(FIXME\\|TODO\\|NOTE\\|WARNING\\):"))
  (mapcar
   (lambda (mode)
     (font-lock-add-keywords mode '(,pattern 1 'special-words prepend))))
   prog-modes))
```

Notice the list `prog-modes` which contains all the modes we want to highlight these words for. The regex we're using is stored in the variable `pattern`. Then it's a simple matter of running each of these modes in turn through the lambda function we provide to activate highlighting on the specified pattern.

## 5 Handling A Bunch Of Major Modes

Since the main power of Emacs lies in its extensibility, you may find (over time) that you build up quite a collection of things to autoload for different file extensions. For example, I have external major modes for CSS, FVWM, Lua, Perl, PHP, Prolog, Python, and Ruby. It's a complete pain to have to enter these all manually into Emacs' configuration, and luckily with a little work you can streamline it easily.

```
(mapcar
 (lambda (mode-list)
  (progn
   (autoload (car mode-list) (symbol-name (car mode-list)))
   (concat "Major mode for editing " (cadr mode-list) "source code.")
   (add-to-list 'auto-mode-alist
                '(,(cadr (cdr mode-list)) . ,(car mode-list))))))
 '( (css-mode      "Cascading Style Sheets"  "\\\.css$")
    (fvwm-mode     "FVWM Configuration"      "\\\.fvwm/config$")
    (lua-mode      "Lua"                      "\\\.lua$")
    (cperl-mode    "Perl"                     "\\\.p[lm]$")
    (php-mode      "PHP"                      "\\\.php$")
    (prolog        "Prolog"                   "\\\.pdb$")
```

```
(python-mode "Python"          "\\\\.py$")
(ruby-mode   "Ruby"            "\\\\.rb$"))
```

This is similar to the snippet above for fontifying special words in source code. Here we apply a lambda function to each element in a list of lists. Each sublist (as it were) contains the symbol for the mode, a very brief string description, and a regexp to match for autoloading it. Simple enough, right? Automatic Boilerplates

Emacs provides support for an auto-insert-mode to automatically add boilerplate code to a new file. Which file is used depends on the auto-insert-alist variable, which is a list of associated lists. There are two ways to do the dotted-list, which you can read about in the documentation for the variable; I use the (REGEX . COMMAND) form. Here we go!

```
(require 'autoinsert)
(setq auto-insert-directory "~/templates/")
(setq auto-insert-query nil)
(defun template-list (insert-directory)
  (let (lst)
    (dolist (elt (directory-files insert-directory nil "[^\\.]" nil) lst)
      (setq lst (append lst '(,(concat "\\." elt "$") . ,elt))))))

(setq auto-insert-alist (template-list auto-insert-directory))
(auto-insert-mode)
```

The first line requires that auto-insert support be present. The second sets the directory where all the boilerplate files are stored. The third line indicates that boilerplates should be automatically inserted without prompting.

The template-list function is really the heart of the customization. It takes the boilerplate directory as its parameter, and creates a null list to hold what will become auto-insert-alist. For each file in the directory that doesn't start with a dot, it adds a dotted-list to the auto-insert-alist: this dotted-list consists of regex matching the filename extension, and the associated file to use as a boilerplate. Since the templates are named in files which match the extension, only a bit of manipulation is necessary to come up with a regex via the concat function. Automatic Indentation

If you write a lot of code in Emacs, you'll probably tire quickly of having to hit tab after starting each new line in your source. To get around this, you could teach yourself to use "C-j" instead of RET to insert newlines, but that's somewhat counter-intuitive. Isn't there a way to just auto-indent code? Yes, there is. Just rebound the return key to whatever "C-j" normally does. The lookup-key function will help you figure out what function to bind to.

One might ask why we don't simply swap the values for "C-j" and RET. The answer is that if we do that, nested hook calls (like c-mode-hook before java-mode-hook) will cause the swap to happen twice, the second reversing the effects of the first. If you want, you can assign the value of RET to an unbound key like "C-'" (that is, control apostrophe) before reassigning RET, or just simply use "M-x newline" whenever you want to insert only a newline.

Using local-set-key we can reassign the RET key to whatever is normally invoked by pressing "C-j". To figure out exactly what that is, we check two keymaps: the mode-specific one and the global one. Now, I've seen some people just substitute newline-and-indent for the lookup-key function here (which is the global keymap binding), but some modes (like Ruby mode) bind their own special function for "C-j". Since that's the effect we're going for here, that's the method I've used. Hence, we check the local mode keymap before the global one.



```
(mapcar
(lambda (mode)
(let ((mode-hook (intern (concat (symbol-name mode) "-hook"))))
(mode-map (intern (concat (symbol-name mode) "-map"))))
(add-hook mode-hook
'(lambda nil
(local-set-key (kbd "RET")
(or (lookup-key ,mode-map "\C-j")
(lookup-key global-map "\C-j"))))))))
'(ada-mode c-mode c++-mode cperl-mode emacs-lisp-mode java-mode html-mode
lisp-mode php-mode ruby-mode sh-mode sgml-mode))
```

Unfortunately, this method creates a little more work for us, because we have to keep track not only of the mode to use, but also the keymap we're looking at. To keep from having to explicitly type both of these in the list parameter to `mapcar`, I've done a bit of symbol magic. (This took me almost two hours to finally figure out so I'm pretty proud of it.) Inside the `mapcar` function we create two variables `mode-hook` and `mode-map` which evaluate to symbols that represent the appropriate hook and keymap, respectively. In constructing these symbols, we take the current value from `mapcar` and create a symbol by appending either `"-hook"` or `"-map"` to the end of it. We can safely use this to determine the correct hook and keymap symbols for a given mode because of the convention that nearly everybody uses for defining mode hooks and keymaps. For example, when `mapcar` gives us `lisp-mode` we convert that to a string, stick `"-map"` onto the end of it, intern a new symbol from the result, and assign that symbol to the `mode-map` variable. Then we evaluate this variable in the body of the lambda expression (that will be added to the hook) and hence make the correct named keymap (`lisp-mode-map`) appear verbatim inside the hook's lambda!

## 6 Using Exuberant Ctags for Speedbar

Alright, we can all agree that `Etags` is great, but quite frankly, `Exuberant Ctags` is better. But of course, Emacs is so configurable that you can have `Speedbar` use whichever tagging facility your heart desires. Setting it up to use `Exuberant Ctags` instead of the default `Etags` is simple enough:

```
(setq speedbar-use-imenu-flag nil)
(setq speedbar-fetch-etags-command "/usr/bin/ctags-exuberant")
(setq speedbar-fetch-etags-arguments '("-e" "-f" "-"))
```

Set these parameters before you launch `Speedbar`.

## 7 Mail, USENET, and IRC

### 7.1 Reading Mail Messages

There are several different ways to read your email from Emacs, the most popular of which is `GNUS`. But `GNUS` is by design a news reader, meaning that there are some hurdles to overcome if you are familiar with more standard email readers like `Mutt` or `Thunderbird`. The first thing you have to do is tell `GNUS` how to fetch and store your email; this is done by setting the `gnus-select-method` variable. (Actually this variable

represents the primary method for getting messages; secondary methods are set through the `gnus-secondary-select-methods` variable.) Next you can set where your mail goes via the `nnmail-split-methods` variable. This is a list whose elements are lists which contain a target group and a regex to match. Any messages matching the regex will be stored in the given group. The last entry should have an empty regex so all remaining mail will go to that group.

Since GNUS behaves like a news reader, you have to subscribe to the groups which will receive email. You can subscribe to a group by using `S` and then typing the name of that group. Note that by default only groups with unread messages will be displayed in the group buffer. To show all groups (both read and unread) press `L`. You can select a particular group with `RET` and unsubscribe from it by placing the cursor on its line and pressing `u`.

```
(require 'gnus)

(setq gnus-directory "~/email/")
(setq gnus-fetch-old-headers t)
(setq gnus-inhibit-startup-message t)
(setq gnus-outgoing-message-group "sent")
(setq gnus-select-method '(nnfolder ""))
(setq gnus-treat-display-smileys nil)

(setq nndraft-directory "~/email/")

(setq nnmail-split-methods
  '(("spam" "^Subject: \\[SPAM\\]")
    ("inbox" "")))

(setq gnus-group-line-format "%M%S%p%P%3N / %3R : %(%-16G%)\n")

(add-hook 'gnus-group-mode-hook
  #'(lambda nil (setq show-trailing-whitespace nil)))
(add-hook 'gnus-summary-mode-hook
  #'(lambda nil (setq show-trailing-whitespace nil)))
(add-hook 'gnus-article-mode-hook
  #'(lambda nil (setq show-trailing-whitespace nil)))
```

Here's an example configuration. I put all of these definitions into my `<filename>.emacs` file; some of these variables (like `inhibit-startup-message`) have to be defined there, but others don't. The hooks at the end are to shut off trailing whitespace display when using GNUS, because for some reason a lot of email has whitespace at the end of lines.

## 7.2 Sending Mail Messages

Compared to reading mail, sending it is rather easy to set up. First, you need to determine how you'll be sending your message: using a local program (like `sendmail`) or through SMTP (to a remote host). If you answered the former, you're pretty much all set right out of the box! Check the `customize / applications / mail`

buffer for configuration. But if you chose the latter, transmitting mail via an external SMTP host, you've got a bit more work to do.

If your SMTP host requires authentication (which most seem to do nowadays), and if you're using GNU Emacs 21 or older, you need to fetch some more up-to-date Emacs Lisp files. Simon Josefsson and Stephen Crane field have made modifications to the Emacs smtpmail source to add support for SMTP authentication. You can find information on <http://josefsson.org/emacs-rfc2554.html> page. It basically boils down to downloading and enabling three different Emacs Lisp source files. Just grab them from Emacs CVS and place them into the same directory; then prepend their location to the beginning of your load-path. When their functionality is required, the new files will be used instead of the old ones. (To boost speed a bit so its more on par with the builtin smtpmail functionality, you can call byte-compile-file on them from Emacs.) Now you can use SMTP authentication to send email messages!

Sending email via SMTP requires some configuration in your `.emacs` file. Here's a decent example:

```
(setq message-send-mail-function 'smtpmail-send-it)
(setq smtpmail-default-smtp-server "smtp.host.name")
(setq smtpmail-local-domain "local.host.name")
;; (setq smtpmail-debug-info t) ; puts debug info in *trace ...* buffer
(setq smtpmail-auth-credentials '(("smtp.host.name" 25 "user" "password")))

(setq mail-host-address "local.host.name")
```

This is pretty self-explanatory. The debugging functionality is helpful if you run into some kind of an error from the SMTP server, as the `*trace ...*` buffer prints out the entire transcript from the client/server interaction. You can now use the command `message-mail` to compose an email message. Use `>C-c C-c` to send it via the enabled method.

### 7.3 Mail Aliases

People don't like to have to remember long complex strings of sometimes random data; that's why programmers invented website bookmarks and mail aliases. There's a couple different ways to use them in GNU Emacs. One is to use the Insidious Big Brother Database (perhaps better known as BBDB) to manage your contacts in a small database. Another option is to use the simple mail alias system provided by your `.mailrc` file. Because it's simpler, more portable, and doesn't require code outside the GNU Emacs base, I'm only going to spend time on this second method.

If you've used other mail programs, you may already have some aliases stored in your `.mailrc` file. In case you don't, the syntax is simple: just create a line that takes the form `alias SHORT LONG`, where `SHORT` is the shortened alias name, and where `LONG` is the actual email address. Once you've got that file, you again have two options for using it.

One method is really truly using old-school mail aliases, where the aliases are expanded just before the message is sent. You don't have to do anything extra to enable this — it should happen by default. The second method is somewhat more useful: it treats mail aliases as abbreviations, expanding them automatically when you insert a word-delimiting character like the comma or space. In order to activate this functionality, you have to set a hook for `message-mode`:

```
(add-hook 'mail-mode-hook 'mail-abbrevs-setup)
```

Now when you're typing in recipient addresses, if you type the name of an alias from your `<code class="filename">.ma` file and hit comma or space, the alias will be expanded to the address it represents. Much faster than searching through an address book, and certainly much easier than having to remember all those crazy addresses people make up!

## 7.4 NNTP Troubles

With GNUS 5.11 running under Emacs 22.0.94.1 and Emacs 23.0.0.1 I have a problem regarding my NNTP connection. As far as I can tell, GNUS keeps the connection to the NNTP server open for as long as possible, but the NNTP server will stop paying attention after a while. GNUS doesn't detect this, and when you try to refresh your Usenet subscriptions, GNUS will hang, waiting for the server to send it data, until you eventually C-g it into submission. To automatically kill the hang, set the variable `nntp-connect-timeout` to some value in seconds—when this period of time expires, GNUS will give up.

That doesn't actually solve the problem, though, because the connection is still active, and GNUS will continue to try to get data from this connection. To refresh your Usenet subscriptions, you need to close the connection to the NNTP server. This can be done either by calling the `nntp-close-server` function, or by entering the server buffer and closing it there. After the server connection is closed, you can re-open it (again, either by the `nntp-open-server` function or through the server buffer) and everything will work again. Until the server lets the connection die again.

```
(setq nntp-connection-timeout 30)
(add-hook 'gnus-after-getting-new-news-hook 'nntp-close-server)
(add-hook 'gnus-started-hook 'nntp-close-server)
```

One decent fix is to use the above server-close method, adding `nntp-close-server` to the `gnus-after-getting-new-news-hook`. This will automatically close the connection after GNUS is done checking the NNTP server; and the next time you go to check for new news, the server will automatically be re-opened. So far, this seems to be an effective workaround for the NNTP connection problem.

## 8 The Emacs Multimedia System

EMMS is an Emacs-based front-end to play multimedia files. EMMS reads metadata from files and uses that information to list them in the current playlist. Unfortunately, it's a bit slow at reading that metadata, so to increase the speed we can bulk read a bunch of the data ahead of time and store it in EMMS' cache using this Python script I wrote.

### 8.1 Installation

You can download EMMS using Darcs, a distributed version control system written in Haskell. To fetch the source code, use the following command:

```
darcs get http://www.kollektiv-hamburg.de/~forcer/darcs/emms
```

You'll most likely need to edit the Makefile before you build. If you get errors about `nnheader-concat` not being defined, run this code snippet within the `emms` directory to convert that function call into an equivalent, more widely available alternative:

```
sed -e 's/nnheader-concat \([^ ]+\)/concat (file-name-as-directory \1)/' \
-i.bak `grep -Hl "nnheader-concat" *.el`
```

Now you can do the usual `make` and `sudo make install` goodness. Note that this is fixed in more recent versions.

## 8.2 Keybindings

```
(global-set-key (kbd "<f1>") 'emms-previous)
(global-set-key (kbd "<f2>") 'emms-start)
(global-set-key (kbd "<f3>") 'emms-stop)
(global-set-key (kbd "<f4>") 'emms-next)
```

## 8.3 Players

The following I use for defining which players will be used. You'll have to throw the `mplayer` entries in if you want to do things like play Internet radio.

```
(setq emms-player-list '(emms-player-mpg321
                        emms-player-ogg123
                        emms-player-mplayer-playlist
                        emms-player-mplayer))
```

## 8.4 Modeline Display

I like to see what's playing in the modeline. This function mostly works, only I can't figure out why it disappears when the track changes by itself.

```
(setq emms-mode-line-mode-line-function
      (lambda nil
        (let ((track (emms-playlist-current-selected-track)))
          (let ((title (emms-track-get track 'info-title)))
            (if (not (null title))
                (format emms-mode-line-format title)
                (if (not (null (string-match "^url: " (emms-track-simple-description track))))
                    (format emms-mode-line-format "Internet Radio")
                    (format emms-mode-line-format "Unknown"))))))))
```

### 8.4.1 Track Description

This function describes how to display a track entry in the playlist. I like to have mine in the format "Artist: Album - [Num] Title".

```
(setq emms-track-description-function
      (lambda (track)
        (let ((artist (emms-track-get track 'info-artist))
              (album (emms-track-get track 'info-album))
              (number (emms-track-get track 'info-tracknumber))
              (title (emms-track-get track 'info-title)))
```

```
(if (and artist album title)
    (if number
        (format "%s: %s - [%03d] %s" artist album (string-to-int number) title)
        (format "%s: %s - %s" artist album title))
    (emms-track-simple-description track))))
```

Additionally, we can change the face for the playlist to be a little cooler.

```
(set-face-attribute 'emms-playlist-track-face nil :font "DejaVu Sans-10")
(set-face-attribute 'emms-playlist-selected-face nil :background "White" :foreground "Firebrick")
```

## 8.5 Adding Tracks from Dired

You can add your own keybinding to Dired to make it add the tracks in a subdirectory when, for example, you press the "e" key. Here's the method to do that:

```
(defun dired-add-to-emms-playlist nil
  "Adds directory tree rooted at the selected directory to the current EMMS playlist."
  (interactive)
  (let ((file (expand-file-name (dired-get-filename))))
    (if (and file (file-directory-p file))
        (emms-add-directory-tree file)
        (emms-add-file file))))
```

```
(add-hook 'dired-mode-hook 'my-dired-mode-hook)
```

```
(defun my-dired-mode-hook()
  (define-key dired-mode-map (kbd "e") 'dired-add-to-emms-playlist))
```

Now whenever you're browsing your music hierarchy in Dired you can press the "e" key when the cursor is over a directory to add that entire directory's (and subdirectories') contents to the playlist. If you press "e" when over a regular file, that file will be added to the playlist.

## 8.6 Metadata Loading

This code is my own custom metadata loader. I wrote a Python script which examines a file and gathers the metadata for that file. This I found much more convenient, accurate, and generally faster than the loaders used by EMMS by default. Plus I could easily refactor this into a cache preloader.

```
(defun metadata (track)
  (when (eq 'file (emms-track-type track))
    (with-temp-buffer
      (when (zerop
             (apply (if (fboundp 'emms-i18n-call-process-simple)
                        'emms-i18n-call-process-simple
                        'call-process)
                    "metadata.py"
                    nil t nil
                    (list (emms-track-name track))))
```

```

(goto-char (point-min))
(while (looking-at "^\\([^\n]+\)=\\(.*\\)$")
  (let ((name (intern (match-string 1)))
        (value (match-string 2)))
    (when (> (length value)
              0)
      (emms-track-set track
                       name
                       (if (eq name 'info-playing-time)
                           (string-to-number value)
                           value))))
  (forward-line 1))))))

(setq emms-info-functions '(metadata))

```

## Part II

# Implementation

Here is the actual source code of my Emacs configuration.

```

15a <emacs 15a>≡
  <Pre-Load Variables 15b>
  <Major Mode Selection 17a>
  <Packages 18a>
  <Other Libraries 18b>
  <Personal Variables 20b>
  <Global Configuration 21b>
  <Global Faces 24b>
  <Global Key Bindings 23c>
  <Utility Functions 25b>
  <File Management 26b>
  <Printing 29a>
  <Major Mode Customization 29d>
  <Server 33>

```

## 9 Pre-Load Setup

Here we configure the load path and other variables that affect how libraries are loaded.

```

15b <Pre-Load Variables 15b>≡
  <Load Path 16a>
  <Load Control Variables 16b>
  <Info Directories 16c>

```

(15a)

## 9.1 Load Path

I've got quite a lot of Emacs Lisp files scattered throughout several directories, so I will set them in the load path here. Some of these things I don't even use much anymore.

```
16a (Load Path 16a)≡ (15b)
      (add-to-list 'load-path "~/elisp")
      (add-to-list 'load-path "~/elisp/asn1")
      (add-to-list 'load-path "~/elisp/bbdb")
      (add-to-list 'load-path "~/elisp/erlang")
      (add-to-list 'load-path "~/elisp/ess/lisp")
      (add-to-list 'load-path "~/elisp/haskell")
      (add-to-list 'load-path "~/elisp/logo")
      (add-to-list 'load-path "~/elisp/muse")
      (add-to-list 'load-path "~/elisp/org/lisp")
      (add-to-list 'load-path "~/elisp/planner")
      (add-to-list 'load-path "~/elisp/remember")
      (add-to-list 'load-path "~/elisp/rcirc")
      (add-to-list 'load-path "~/elisp/scala")
      (add-to-list 'load-path "~/elisp/slime")
      (add-to-list 'load-path "~/elisp/sml")
      (add-to-list 'load-path "~/elisp/swank-clojure")
      (add-to-list 'load-path "~/elisp/tuareg")
```

## 9.2 Conditional Load Variables

Nowadays I don't use EMMS or GNUS so there's no reason to load them. However, I do use rcirc because it's the only good IRC client for Mac (you heard me). I keep the load control and configuration of these larger pieces in separate files, to help make it easier to conditionally load them. These will be checked later in the [[Other Libraries]] section.

```
16b (Load Control Variables 16b)≡ (15b)
      (setq tcv-emms-enable nil)
      (setq tcv-gnus-enable t)
      (setq tcv-rcirc-enable t)
```

## 9.3 Info Directories

In order to get good use out of the info browser, you need to tell it where the info files are for the Emacs Lisp code you have installed. The system default info directories will get picked up automatically.

```
16c (Info Directories 16c)≡ (15b)
      (add-to-list 'info-default-directory-list "~/elisp/bbdb/info")
      (add-to-list 'info-default-directory-list "~/elisp/logo/info")
```

# 10 Major Mode Setup

This is a mechanism for loading modes automatically when certain files are opened, and for making the association that certain files should use specific major modes. It operates on a data structure that describes the relationship between file names and modes.

Each entry in the list that we process can have one of two forms. In the first, the fields in the list are:

1. A function which starts the desired mode, for example “lua-mode” to start Lua mode.



2. The longer descriptive name of the mode, which is used by Emacs somehow.
3. Regular expression that the file name is matched against to determine when this mode should be used. Continuing with the Lua example, this would be “\\\.lua\$”.

This case assumes that the Emacs file that contains the definition of the specified function to load the mode has the same name as that function. This is typically the case by convention: the file `lua-mode.el` contains the definition of `lua-mode`. However, sometimes this is not the case, for example Prolog support comes in a file called `prolog.el` and so we offer the alternate method. If the first element of the entry is a list, rather than a string, then it contains these items:

1. The name of the function to start the mode, for example “`prolog-mode`”.
2. The name of the file which includes the definition of that function, without extension, e.g. “`prolog`”.

The rest is as above.

```
17a (Major Mode Selection 17a)≡ (15a)
(mapcar
  (lambda (mode-list)
    (if (listp (car mode-list))
        (progn
          (autoload (car (car mode-list)) (cadr (car mode-list))
                    (concat "Major mode for editing " (cadr mode-list) "source code.))
          (add-to-list 'auto-mode-alist '(, (cadr (cdr mode-list)) . ,(car (car mode-list))))))
        (progn
          (autoload (car mode-list) (symbol-name (car mode-list))
                    (concat "Major mode for editing " (cadr mode-list) "source code.))
          (add-to-list 'auto-mode-alist '(, (cadr (cdr mode-list)) . ,(car mode-list))))))
  '( (asn1-mode      "ASN.1"                "\\ .asn$")
    (clojure-mode   "Clojure"               "\\ .clj$")
    (css-mode       "Cascading Style Sheets" "\\ .css$")
    (erlang-mode    "YAWS Dynamic Page"     "\\ .yaws$")
    (fvwm-mode      "FVWM Configuration"    "\\ .fvwm/config$")
    (gnuplot-mode   "Gnuplot"              "\\ .gp\\|\\.gpi$")
    (groovy-mode    "Groovy"               "\\ .groovy$")
    (haskell-mode   "Haskell"              "\\ .hs$")
    (lua-mode       "Lua"                  "\\ .lua$")
    (cperl-mode     "Perl"                 "\\ .p[lm]$")
    (php-mode       "PHP"                  "\\ .php\\|\\.inc$")
    (python-mode    "Python"               "\\ .[pj]y$")
    (ruby-mode      "Ruby"                 "\\ .rb$")
    (rnc-mode       "RelaxNG Compact Syntax" "\\ .rnc$")
    (rst-mode       "reStructuredText"     "\\ .rst$")
    (smalltalk-mode "Smalltalk"            "\\ .st$")
    (sml-mode       "Standard ML"          "\\ .sml$")
    (markdown-mode  "Markdown"             "\\ .text$")
    (wikipedia-mode "Wikipedia"            "\\ .wiki$")
    (js2-mode       "JavaScript"           "\\ .js$")
    (yaml-mode      "YAML"                 "\\ .ya?ml$")
    ((logo-mode     "logo") "Logo"         "\\ .logo$")
    ((org-mode      "org") "Org"           "\\ .org$")
    ((prolog-mode   "prolog") "Prolog"     "\\ .pdb$")
    ((tuareg-mode   "tuareg") "Caml"       "\\ .mli?$$$"))
```

We also have some more old-school loading going on.

```
17b (Major Mode Selection 17a)+≡ (15a)
(add-to-list 'auto-mode-alist '("Makefile" . makefile-gmake-mode))
(add-to-list 'auto-mode-alist '("JSP" . html-mode))

(require 'prolog)
```

## 11 Other Packages to Load

```
18a (Packages 18a)≡ (15a)
  (require 'autoinsert)      ; insert text when opening new files
  (require 'calendar)       ; organize your life
  (require 'compile)        ; display the results of compiling a file
  (require 'darcsum)        ; finds the differences in Darcs repositories
  ;(require 'doxymacs)      ; Doxygen integration
  (require 'erc)            ; the ERC chat client
  (require 'erlang-start)   ; support for Erlang
  (require 'ess-site)       ; Emacs Speaks Statistics
  (require 'faraday-mode)   ; electricize arbitrary text
  (require 'htmlize)        ; convert a buffer into HTML
  (require 'psvn)           ; enhanced Subversion interaction
  (require 'remember-planner) ; I don't remember what this does! :)
  (require 'rst)            ; reStructuredText mode
  ;(require 'quack)         ; superior mode for Scheme programming
  (require 'scala-mode-auto) ; autoloads for programming in Scala
  (require 'sml-autoloads)  ; autoloads necessary SML mode functions
  (require 'speedbar)       ; file and tag browser
  (require 'stamp)          ; set timestamps in files
```

Some files are written to be better simply loaded than required in some other more complex sense.

```
18b (Other Libraries 18b)≡ (15a)
  (require 'package)
  (add-to-list 'package-archives '("marmalade" . "http://marmalade-repo.org/packages/"))

  (if tcv-emms-enable (load "~/.emacs_emms.el"))
  (if tcv-gnus-enable (load "~/.emacs_gnus.el"))
  (if tcv-rcirc-enable (load "~/.emacs_rcirc.el"))
  (load "~/elisp/haskell/haskell-site-file") ; load haskell stuff
  (setq haskell-program-name "/opt/haskell/bin/ghci")
  (setq inferior-R-program-name "/opt/r-lang/bin/R")
  <Tramp 19b>
  <AUCTeX 19c>
  <CPeRl Mode 19d>
  <SLIME 20a>

  (eval-after-load "htmlize"
    '(progn
      (defadvice htmlize-faces-in-buffer (after org-no-nil-faces activate)
        "Make sure there are no nil faces"
        (setq ad-return-value (delq nil ad-return-value))))))

  ;; Emacs Muse

  (require 'muse-mode)
  (require 'muse-html)
  (require 'muse-latex)
  (require 'muse-project)

  ;; Emacs Shell

  (setq eshell-cmpl-dir-ignore "\\`\\(\\.\\|\\.\\.\\|hg\\|svn\\|git\\)?\\|CVS\\|\\`")

  ;(autoload 'imaxima "imaxima" "Image support for Maxima." t)

  ;; Set the action table for faraday electric mode.

  (setq faraday-action-table
    '((sml-mode . ("type" . indent-according-to-mode)
              ("val" . indent-according-to-mode))))

  ;; Variables specific to external packages
```

```

(setq erc-fill-column 100)
(setq erc-nick "metasyntax|work")

(setq erlang-root-dir "/usr/local/lib/erlang")
(setq js2-auto-indent-flag nil)

;(setq quack-global-menu-p nil)
;(setq quack-fontify-style 'emacs)
;(setq quack-default-program "gsi")

(setq remember-handler-functions '(remember-planner-append))
(setq remember-annotation-functions planner-annotation-functions)
(setq rst-mode-lazy nil) ; fix horribly slow font-locking in reStructuredText

(require 'pp-c-l)
(setq pp^L-^L-string-function
  (lambda (win)
    (let ((len (- (/ (window-width win) 2) 6)))
      (concat (make-string len ?)
              "SECTION BREAK"
              (make-string (if (evenp (window-width win)) (1- len) len) ? )))))
(setq pp^L-^L-string-pre "")
(setq pp^L-^L-string-post "")
(set-face-attribute 'pp^L-highlight nil :weight 'bold :foreground "white" :background "blue" :box nil)

;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;
;;
;; PLANNER
;;
;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;;

(setq muse-project-alist
  '(("Project"
     ("~/emacs-muse" :default "index")
     (:base "html" :path "~/public_html")
     (:base "pdf" :path "~/public_html/pdf"))))

```

19a *(UC Berkeley Logo 19a)*≡

```

(setq logo-system-type 'xterm)
(setq logo-binary-name "/usr/local/bin/logo")
(setq logo-info-file "~/elisp/info/ucblogo.info")
(setq logo-help-path "/usr/local/share/ucblogo/helpfiles/")
(setq logo-tutorial-path "~/elisp/logo")
(setq logo-setcursor-overwrite nil)
(setq logo-unbalanced-distance 4096)
(setq logo-info-trans nil)

```

19b *(Tramp 19b)*≡

```

(require 'tramp)
(add-to-list 'tramp-remote-path "/home/ADIPFW/venablet/Local/bin")

```

(18b)

19c *(AUCTeX 19c)*≡

```

(load "auctex.el" t t t) ; load AUCTeX
(load "preview-latex.el" t t t) ; load preview-latex
(setq LaTeX-verbatim-environments '(("verbatim" "verbatim*" "Verbatim"))
(setq LaTeX-command-style '((" "%(PDF)%(latex) %S%(PDFout)"))

```

(18b)

19d *(CPerl Mode 19d)*≡

```

(require 'cperl-mode) ; a superior Perl mode

(setq cperl-indent-level 4)
(setq cperl-close-paren-offset -4)
(setq cperl-highlight-variables-indiscriminately t)
(setq cperl-indent-parens-as-block t)

```

(18b)

```

20a  (SLIME 20a)≡
      (require 'slime)                ; autoloads a superior Lisp interaction mode
      (require 'swank-clojure)       ; to use Clojure from within SLIME

      (setenv "SBCL_HOME" "/opt/sbcl/lib/sbcl")
      (setq inferior-lisp-program "/opt/clisp/bin/clisp")
      (slime-setup '(slime-repl))

      ;; This is to use Clojure from within SLIME.

      (setq swank-clojure-jar-path "~/Libraries/Java/clojure.jar")
      (setq swank-clojure-extra-classpaths nil)
      (require 'swank-clojure-autoload)

```

(18b)

## 12 Personal Variables

These are variables that are used by my own functions later on. The bulk of this is font definition and so forth, but there are a few other things as well.

```

20b  (Personal Variables 20b)≡
      (X11 Fonts 20c)
      (Outline Fonts 21a)

      (defvar tcv-x-font tcv-swiss
        "Which X font to use.")

      (defvar tcv-xft-font (if (string= system-type "darwin") "mac" "consolas"))

      (defvar tcv-use-x-font-p (if (string= system-name "darwin") nil nil)
        "Use a regular X font (as opposed to Xft font) when true.")

      (defvar tcv-browser 'firefox
        "Type of web browser to use. Sets browser functions in Emacs
        appropriately. Currently supported: firefox, conkeror, opera.")

      (defvar tcv-every-mode '(ada-mode c-mode c++-mode clojure-mode
                               cperl-mode css-mode emacs-lisp-mode erlang-mode groovy-mode
                               java-mode haskell-mode html-mode lisp-mode perl-mode
                               php-mode prolog-mode ruby-mode scala-mode scheme-mode
                               sgml-mode sh-mode shell-script-mode sml-mode tcl-mode
                               tuareg-mode xml-mode)
        "Every single mode.")

      (defvar tcv-adjust-colors nil)
      (defvar tcv-font-size
        (cond ((string-match "^thinkpad" system-name) 12)
              ((string-match "^zareason" system-name) 12)
              ((string-match "^system76" system-name) 13)
              ((string= "darwin" system-type) 13)
              (t 12)))

```

(15a)

### 12.1 X11 Fonts

I still like to use bitmapped fonts on my Unix systems sometimes. These are a variety of useful fonts; set `tcv-x-font` to one of these variables to use that font.

```

20c  (X11 Fonts 20c)≡
      (defvar tcv-lispm-fixed "-lispm-fixed-medium-r-normal--13-90-100-100-m-80-iso8859-15"
        "X font designator for the MIT CADR Lisp Machine type.")

```

(20b)

```
(defvar tcv-dec-terminal "-dec-terminal-bold-r-normal--14-140-75-75-c-80-iso8859-1"
  "X font designator for the bolded DEC terminal type.")

(defvar tcv-swiss "-xos4-terminus-medium-r-normal--16-160-72-72-c-80-iso10646-1"
  "X font designator for my modified Terminus font.")

(defvar tcv-misc-fixed-large "-misc-fixed-medium-r-normal--13-120-75-75-c-70-iso10646-1"
  "Miscellaneous fixed Unicode font - larger version.")

(defvar tcv-misc-fixed-small "-misc-fixed-medium-r-semicondensed--13-120-75-75-c-60-iso10646-1"
  "Miscellaneous fixed Unicode font - smaller version.")
```

## 12.2 Outline Fonts

Register some common outline-based font families. This makes it so we can choose a “theme” for the entire program, and then load the default families for each typeface in their appropriate roles. For example, we can use all DejaVu families, or the standard Mac families.

Each font that is defined should have three fields, which are used by `make-xft-font` to create a string that Emacs will use to load that family.

```
21a (Outline Fonts 21a)≡ (20b)
  (defvar tcv-font-droid
    '(:sans . "Droid Sans")
      (:serif . "Droid Serif")
      (:mono . "Droid Sans Mono")))

  (defvar tcv-font-dejavu
    '(:sans . "DejaVu Sans")
      (:serif . "DejaVu Serif")
      (:mono . "DejaVu Sans Mono")))

  (defvar tcv-font-liberation
    '(:sans . "Liberation Sans")
      (:serif . "Liberation Serif")
      (:mono . "Liberation Mono")))

  (defvar tcv-font-inconsolata
    '(:sans . "DejaVu Sans")
      (:serif . "DejaVu Serif")
      (:mono . "Inconsolata")))

  (defvar tcv-font-consolas
    '(:sans . "DejaVu Sans")
      (:serif . "DejaVu Serif")
      (:mono . "Consolas")))

  (defvar tcv-font-mac
    '(:sans . "Helvetica")
      (:serif . "Times")
      (:mono . "Monaco")))

  (defun make-xft-font (family variant size)
    (concat (cdr (assoc variant (eval (intern (concat "tcv-font-" family)))))) "-" (int-to-string size)))

21b (Global Configuration 21b)≡ (15a)
  (Frame Setup 22a)
  (Browser Setup 22b)
  (Global Variables 22c)
  (Buffer-Local Variables 23a)
  (Set By Function 23b)
```

We set the information that each frame will use: dimensions, font backend (somewhat legacy from the days when XFT was not enabled by default), and the face. It was once the case that if we failed to set the face here it used the Emacs-internal default for new frames.

```
22a (Frame Setup 22a)≡ (21b)
  (setq default-frame-alist '((width . 80) (height . 40)
                             (font-backend . "xft, x")
                             ,(if tcv-use-x-font-p
                                 '(font . ,tcv-x-font)
                                 '(font . ,(make-xft-font tcv-xft-font :mono tcv-font-size))))
    ;(setq initial-frame-alist '((width . 120) (height . 40)))
```

We have a set of rules for how we determine what browser to use, which comes down to OS and how the variable above is set for which browser we would *like* to use.

```
22b (Browser Setup 22b)≡ (21b)
  (cond
    ((eql tcv-browser 'firefox)
     (setq browse-url-new-window-flag t)
     (setq browse-url-firefox-new-window-is-tab t)
     (setq browse-url-browser-function 'browse-url-firefox))
    ((eql tcv-browser 'conkeror)
     (setq browse-url-new-window-flag nil)
     (setq browse-url-firefox-program "/opt/conkeror/xulrunner-stub")
     (setq browse-url-browser-function 'browse-url-firefox))
    ((eql tcv-browser 'opera)
     (setq browse-url-generic-program "opera")
     (setq browse-url-generic-args '("-newpage"))))
```

These variables can be set globally.

```
22c (Global Variables 22c)≡ (21b)
  (setq c-basic-offset 4) ; set indentation to four spaces
  (setq case-fold-search t) ; don't remember what this does
  (setq column-number-mode t) ; show column numbers on the modeline
  (setq default-input-method "TeX") ; make TeX the alternate input method
  (setq direcd-recursive-deletes 'always) ; don't ask to delete recursively
  (setq display-time-format "%Y-%m-%d %H:%M") ; use international format for time

  (setq frame-title-format '((eval (if (null (buffer-file-name))
                                       "%b"
                                       "%f"))))

  (setq inhibit-startup-message t) ; don't show the Emacs splash buffer
  (setq make-backup-files nil) ; stop making those silly backup files
  (setq mouse-wheel-follow-mouse t) ; mouse wheel affects window over which mouse hovers
  (setq mouse-wheel-progressive-speed nil) ; don't accelerate the mouse wheel
  (setq sentence-end-double-space nil) ; sentences end with a single space
  (setq require-final-newline t) ; automatically put newline at end of file
  (setq scheme-program-name "csi") ; Chicken Scheme Interpreter / crime scene investigation
  (setq sql-sqlite-program "sqlite3") ; modern version of sqlite program
  (setq tcl-application "tclsh") ; Tcl program to run in inferior mode
  (setq transient-mark-mode t) ; don't remember what this does
  (setq truncate-partial-width-windows nil) ; ... ?
  (setq uniquify-buffer-name-style 'forward) ; ... ?
  (setq use-dialog-box nil) ; don't use the GUI for questions / file finding / etc.
  (setq user-full-name "Taylor Venable") ; full name, in case not set
  (setq visible-bell t) ; flash the top and bottom lines instead of beeping
  (setq vc-follow-symlinks t) ; don't ask to follow symlinks to VC files
  (setq x-stretch-cursor t) ; stretch cursor to cover tabs

  ; (setq sgml-quick-keys t) ; make SGML tag characters behave electrically
  ; (setq mouse-wheel-progressive-speed t) ; enable fast mouse scrolling

  (setq lazy-highlight-cleanup nil) ; Don't automatically un-highlight isearch hits.
```

These variables are usually buffer-local and so we have to use the special `setq-default` function to set their default global values (which then become buffer-local if they are changed).

```
23a (Buffer-Local Variables 23a)≡ (21b)
  (setq-default buffer-file-coding-system 'utf-8-unix)
  (setq-default bidi-display-reordering nil)      ; turn off all bidi stuff
  (setq-default fill-column 80)                  ; fill up to column 80
  (setq-default indent-tabs-mode nil)            ; never use tabs - only spaces
  (setq-default indicate-empty-lines t)          ; show empty lines in the fringe

  ; (setq-default show-trailing-whitespace t)    ; highlight trailing whitespace
```

Finally some variables cannot be directly set for some reason, or it is recommended that they not be set directly. These we set by using the function.

```
23b (Set By Function 23b)≡ (21b)
  (delete-selection-mode t)      ; delete text in marked region
  (global-auto-revert-mode 1)    ; enable auto-revert-mode globally
  (global-font-lock-mode t)      ; enable syntax highlighting
  (mouse-wheel-mode t)           ; allow scrolling with mouse wheel
  (set-language-environment "UTF-8") ; use UTF-8 for default input
  (set-scroll-bar-mode 'right)   ; show scrollbar on the right
  (show-paren-mode t)            ; highlight matching parentheses
  (tool-bar-mode -1)             ; turn off quick tool bar
  (display-time-mode)            ; show time in the modeline

  (grep-compute-defaults)
  (setq grep-command "grep -rnHE --exclude-dir='.svn' --exclude='*/TAGS'")
```

```
23c (Global Key Bindings 23c)≡ (15a)
  (global-set-key (kbd "<f1>") 'emms-previous)
  (global-set-key (kbd "<f2>") 'emms-start)
  (global-set-key (kbd "<f3>") 'emms-stop)
  (global-set-key (kbd "<f4>") 'emms-next)

  (global-set-key (kbd "C-,") 'hs-toggle-hiding)

  (defun delete-word (arg)
    "Delete characters forward until encountering the end of a word.
    With argument ARG, do this that many times."
    (interactive "p")
    (delete-region (point) (progn (forward-word arg) (point))))

  (defun backward-delete-word (arg)
    "Delete characters backward until encountering the beginning of a word.
    With argument ARG, do this that many times."
    (interactive "p")
    (delete-word (- arg)))

  (global-set-key (kbd "C-<backspace>") 'backward-delete-word)
  (global-set-key (kbd "M-DEL") 'backward-delete-word)
  (global-set-key (kbd "C-<delete>") 'delete-word)
  (global-set-key (kbd "M-d") 'delete-word)
  (Darwin Key Bindings 24a)
```

These key bindings emulate the typical bindings that you find in OS X. We have to work around several things here:

- The delete key does backspace functions.
- Home and end goto the beginning and end of the document.

- 24a *(Darwin Key Bindings 24a)*≡ (23c)
- ```
(cond ((string= system-type "darwin")
      (progn
        (global-set-key (kbd "<s-down>") #'end-of-buffer)
        (global-set-key (kbd "<s-up>") #'beginning-of-buffer)
        (global-set-key (kbd "<M-kp-delete>") #'backward-kill-word)
        (global-set-key (kbd "<kp-delete>") #'delete-char)
        (global-set-key (kbd "<M-kp-delete>") #'kill-word)
        (global-set-key (kbd "<s-left>") #'beginning-of-line)
        (global-set-key (kbd "<s-right>") #'end-of-line)
        (global-set-key (kbd "<home>") #'beginning-of-line)
        (global-set-key (kbd "<end>") #'end-of-line)
        (global-set-key (kbd "<s-s>") #'save-buffer)
        (global-set-key (kbd "<s-q>") #'save-buffers-kill-terminal)
        (global-set-key (kbd "<s-w>") #'kill-buffer))))
```
- 24b *(Global Faces 24b)*≡ (15a)
- ```
(Customized Faces 24c)
(Diff Faces 24f)
(Custom Word Highlight 25a)
```
- 24c *(Customized Faces 24c)*≡ (24b)
- ```
(Adjust Faces 24d)
(Adjust Colors 24e)
```
- 24d *(Adjust Faces 24d)*≡ (24c)
- ```
(defun tcv-adjust-font ()
  (if tcv-use-x-font-p
      (progn
        (set-face-attribute 'default          nil :font tcv-x-font)
        (set-face-attribute 'tooltip          nil :font tcv-x-font)
        (set-face-attribute 'mode-line-inactive nil :font tcv-x-font))
      (progn
        (set-face-attribute 'default          nil :font (make-xft-font tcv-xft-font :mono tcv-font-size))
        (set-face-attribute 'fixed-pitch      nil :font (make-xft-font tcv-xft-font :mono tcv-font-size))
        (set-face-attribute 'variable-pitch   nil :font (make-xft-font tcv-xft-font :sans tcv-font-size))
        (set-face-attribute 'tooltip          nil :weight 'medium)
        (set-face-attribute 'font-lock-doc-face nil :slant 'italic))))

  (if (and (display-graphic-p)
          (not (boundp 'aquamacs-version)))
      (tcv-adjust-font)))
```
- 24e *(Adjust Colors 24e)*≡ (24c)
- ```
(if tcv-adjust-colors
  (progn
    (set-face-attribute 'cursor          nil :background "Gray50")
    (set-face-attribute 'font-lock-comment-face nil :foreground "Firebrick")
    (set-face-attribute 'font-lock-doc-face   nil :foreground "Firebrick")
    (set-face-attribute 'font-lock-string-face nil :foreground "RoyalBlue")
    (set-face-attribute 'highlight          nil :background "LightSteelBlue")
    (set-face-attribute 'region              nil :background "LemonChiffon2")
    (set-face-attribute 'show-paren-match    nil :background "SkyBlue3" :foreground "White")
    (set-face-attribute 'show-paren-mismatch nil :background "IndianRed3" :foreground "White")))

  (set-face-attribute 'mode-line          nil :background "gray75" :box nil)
  (set-face-attribute 'mode-line-highlight nil :box nil :foreground "Firebrick")
  (set-face-attribute 'mode-line-inactive nil :background "grey90" :box nil))
```
- 24f *(Diff Faces 24f)*≡ (24b)
- ```
(require 'diff-mode)
(set-face-attribute 'diff-removed nil :background "RosyBrown1")
(set-face-attribute 'diff-added   nil :background "PaleGreen1")
(setq-default diff-switches "-u")
```



```

25a (Custom Word Highlight 25a)≡ (24b)
(make-face 'tcv-special-words)
(set-face-attribute 'tcv-special-words nil :foreground "White" :background "Firebrick")

(let ((pattern "\\<\\(FIXME\\|TODO\\|NOTE\\|WARNING\\|NOTREACHED\\):"))
  (mapcar
   (lambda (mode)
     (font-lock-add-keywords mode '(,pattern 1 'tcv-special-words prepend))) tcv-every-mode))

```

## 13 Utility Functions

```

25b (Utility Functions 25b)≡ (15a)
(Insert Date Function 25c)
(Hex Decode Function 25d)
(Longest Line Function 25e)
(Protected Require Function 26a)

```

```

25c (Insert Date Function 25c)≡ (25b)
(defun insert-date-rfc822 ()
  "Insert the current time in the format used by RFC-822."
  (interactive)
  (insert (format-time-string "%a, %d %b %Y %H:%M:%S %Z")))

```

### 13.1 Hex Decoding

```

25d (Hex Decode Function 25d)≡ (25b)
(defun tcv-decode-hex ()
  "Turn a series of hex characters (like in APDU logs) into ASCII."
  (interactive)
  (if (not (region-active-p))
      (error "You must select a region")
      (progn
        (if (< (mark) (point))
            (exchange-point-and-mark))
        (insert " ASCII: ")
        (while (re-search-forward "[0-9A-F]\\{2\\}" (mark) t)
          (let ((code-as-decimal (string-to-number (match-string 1) 16)))
            (if (and (> code-as-decimal 31) (< code-as-decimal 127))
                (replace-match (format "%c" (make-char 'ascii code-as-decimal)) nil nil)))))))

```

### 13.2 Longest Line

```

25e (Longest Line Function 25e)≡ (25b)
(defun longest-line-length nil
  (let ((longest-line 0)
        (line 0)
        (length 0))
    (save-excursion
      (goto-char (point-min))
      (end-of-line)
      (setq length (current-column))
      (while (zerop (forward-line 1))
        (setq line (1+ line))
        (end-of-line)
        (cond ((> (current-column) length)
              (setq length (current-column))
              (setq longest-line line))))))
  length))

```

## 13.3 Protected Require

26a *(Protected Require Function 26a)*≡ (25b)

```
(defun protected-require (name)
  (condition-case err
    (progn
      (if (stringp name)
          (load-library name)
          (require name)))
      (file-error nil)))
```

## 14 File Management

26b *(File Management 26b)*≡ (15a)

*(Code Boilerplates 26c)*  
*(Make Scripts Executable 27a)*  
*(Work Coding Conventions 27b)*  
*(Path Functions 27c)*  
*(Find Changes File 28b)*  
*(Add Changes Entry 28c)*

### 14.1 Boilerplate & Templates

26c *(Code Boilerplates 26c)*≡ (26b)

```
(setq auto-insert-directory "~/Templates/") ; where the templates are stored
(setq auto-insert-query nil) ; don't ask to insert -- just do it
(setq latex-do-class-assignment-insert nil) ; avoid screwing up AUCTeX

;; Prompt for and expand CLASS and ASSIGNMENT in the LaTeX template.

(defun latex-insert-class-assignment nil
  (if latex-do-class-assignment-insert
      (let ((class (read-from-minibuffer "Class: "))
            (assignment (read-from-minibuffer "Assignment: ")))
        (progn
          (while (search-forward "CLASS" nil t)
            (replace-match class t t))
          (while (search-forward "ASSIGNMENT" nil t)
            (replace-match assignment t t))
          (setq latex-do-class-assignment-insert nil)))
      nil))

;; Returns a list associating filename regexes to the template file.
;; For LaTeX, also add the CLASS and ASSIGNMENT expansion function.

(defun template-list (insert-directory)
  (let (lst)
    (dolist (elt (directory-files insert-directory nil "[^\\.]" nil) lst)
      (if (string-equal elt "tex")
          (setq lst (append lst '((, (concat "\\." elt "$") . [,elt latex-insert-class-assignment])))
                (setq lst (append lst '((, (concat "\\." elt "$") . [,elt]))))))))

  (setq auto-insert-alist (template-list auto-insert-directory))
  (auto-insert-mode))

;; This makes it so we only do the class & assignment stuff when creating
;; a new file. If we enable it all the time, AUCTeX gets messed up.

(add-hook 'find-file-not-found-functions
  (lambda nil
```

```
(if (string-equal (file-name-extension buffer-file-name) "tex")
    (setq latex-do-class-assignment-insert t)
    nil)))
```

## 14.2 Executable Scripts

27a *(Make Scripts Executable 27a)*≡ (26b)

```
(add-hook 'after-save-hook
  (lambda nil
    (and (save-excursion
          (save-restriction
            (widen)
            (goto-char (point-min))
            (save-match-data
              (looking-at "^#!"))))
         (not (file-executable-p buffer-file-name))
         (shell-command (concat "chmod +x " (shell-quote-argument buffer-file-name)))
         (message
          (concat "Saved as executable script: " buffer-file-name))))))
```

## 14.3 Coding Conventions

27b *(Work Coding Conventions 27b)*≡ (26b)

```
(defun work-code-conventions ()
  "Configure Emacs variables to support work coding conventions.
Intended to be used as a hook for finding a file."
  (if (string-match "Work/" buffer-file-name)
      (progn
        (set-variable 'indent-tabs-mode nil)
        (set-variable 'tab-width 4))))

(add-hook 'find-file-hook 'work-code-conventions)
(add-hook 'before-save-hook 'delete-trailing-whitespace)

; I just figured out how input methods work and they're too damn useful.
; (global-set-key (kbd "C-\\") #'hs-toggle-hiding)

(require 'cl)
```

## 14.4 Path Functions

Surprisingly, there are no functions in Emacs Lisp to manipulate path components. This is doubly confusing given that Common Lisp did a great job practically inventing logical paths. Thus, we are forced to write our own path manipulation functions here, assuming that paths uses forward slashes as directory separators.

27c *(Path Functions 27c)*≡ (26b)

*(Path Split 27d)*

*(Path Parent 28a)*

27d *(Path Split 27d)*≡ (27c)

```
(defun path-split (path)
  (split-string path "/" t))
```

```
28a (Path Parent 28a)≡ (27c)
      (defun path-parent (path)
        (let ((components (path-split path)))
          (if (= (length components) 1) "/"
              (concat "/" (reduce #'(lambda (old new)
                                     (concat old "/" new))
                                  (reverse (cdr (reverse components))))))))))
```

## 14.5 Find Changes File

```
28b (Find Changes File 28b)≡ (26b)
      (defun tcv-find-changes-file (path)
        (let ((try (concat (file-name-directory path) "CHANGES")))
          (if (file-exists-p try)
              try
              (if (string= (path-parent try) "/")
                  nil
                  (tcv-find-changes-file (path-parent try)))))))
```

## 14.6 Add Changes Entry

```
28c (Add Changes Entry 28c)≡ (26b)
      (setq-default add-log-full-name "Taylor Venable")
      (setq-default add-log-mailing-address "taylor.venable@trustbearer.com")

      (defun tcv-add-changes ()
        (interactive)
        (let ((changes-file (or (tcv-find-changes-file (buffer-file-name)) "CHANGES")))
          (add-change-log-entry nil changes-file nil t t)))
```

```
28d (Speedbar 28d)≡
      (setq speedbar-frame-parameters
            '((minibuffer)
              (width . 36)
              (height . 50)
              (border-width . 0)
              (menu-bar-lines . 1)
              (tool-bar-lines . 0)
              (unsplittable . t)
              (left . 938)
              (top . 47)))

      (setq speedbar-indentation-width 2) ; use two spaces to indent sub-files
      (setq speedbar-show-unknown-files t) ; show files we don't have tags for

      ;; (setq speedbar-use-imenu-flag nil)
      ;; (setq speedbar-fetch-etags-command "/usr/bin/ctags-exuberant")
      ;; (setq speedbar-fetch-etags-arguments '("-e" "-f" "-"))
      ;; (speedbar)
```

```
28e (Calendar 28e)≡
      (setq calendar-date-display-form
            '((format "%4s-%02d-%02d" year (string-to-int month) (string-to-int day))))
      (add-to-list 'diary-date-forms '(year "-" month "-" day))
```

29a *(Printing 29a)*≡ (15a)

```
(setq ps-mark-code-directory nil) ; don't know what this does, but it's necessary
(setq ps-font-size '(10 . 10)) ; make the font actually legible
(setq ps-current-bg nil) ; set the background color of the output
(setq ps-print-color-p nil) ; print only black (for mono laser printer)

(setq ps-right-header
  (list "/pagenumberstring load"
        'ps-time-stamp-yyyy-mm-dd
        'ps-time-stamp-hh:mm:ss))
```

*(a2ps Function 29b)*

29b *(a2ps Function 29b)*≡ (29a)

```
(defun a2ps-print nil
  (interactive)
  (shell-command (concat "a2ps "
                        "--medium=Letter "
                        (if (> (longest-line-length) 95) "--landscape " "--portrait ")
                        "--columns=1 "
                        "--line-numbers=1 "
                        "--header=" " "
                        "--left-title="
                        (shell-quote-argument
                          (format-time-string
                            "%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S"
                            (nth 5 (file-attributes buffer-file-name))))
                        " "
                        "--left-footer=" " "
                        "--footer=" (shell-quote-argument buffer-file-name) " "
                        "--right-footer=" " "
                        "--font-size=9 "
                        "--tabsize=2 "
                        "--pretty-print "
                        "--highlight-level=heavy "
                        "--sides=duplex "
                        (shell-quote-argument buffer-file-name))))))
```

Ant compilation is now configured by default, so there's no real reason to enable this anymore.

29c *(Ant Compilation 29c)*≡

```
;; (setq compilation-error-regexp-alist
;;      (append (list
;;                ;; works for jikes
;;                '("^\\s-*\\[[^]]*\\]\\s-*\\(.+\\):\\([0-9]+\\):\\([0-9]+\\):[0-9]+:[0-9]+:" 1 2 3)
;;                ;; works for javac
;;                '("^\\s-*\\[[^]]*\\]\\s-*\\(.+\\):" 1 2))
;;      compilation-error-regexp-alist))
```

## 15 Major Mode Customization

Here we put code for tweaking individual major modes. Usually this means adding hooks to the modes themselves, or otherwise setting buffer-local variables when we enter a buffer with the specific mode.

29d *(Major Mode Customization 29d)*≡ (15a)

```
(All Modes 30a)
(C Mode 30c)
(Emacs Lisp Mode 31a)
(Java Mode 31b)
(Haskell Mode 31c)
(HTML Mode 31d)
```

(*LaTeX Mode 31e*)  
 (*Python Mode 32a*)  
 (*Ruby Mode 32b*)  
 (*Scala Mode 32c*)  
 (*Org Mode 32d*)

## 15.1 All Modes

There are a few things we need to define for nearly all modes, which is why we set `tcv-every-mode` above. The first thing we want to do is redefine the binding for the return key to add a new line and then indent according to the current mode. Actually we want to do this in every mode except for Haskell.

```
30a (All Modes 30a)≡ (29d)
(mapcar
  (lambda (mode)
    (let ((mode-hook (intern (concat (symbol-name mode) "-hook"))))
      (add-hook mode-hook (lambda nil (local-set-key (kbd "RET") 'newline-and-indent))))))
  (remove 'haskell-mode tcv-every-mode))
```

We also create a nifty little function to set the indentation for specific modes. Because some modes define their own indentation variables rather than using `c-basic-offset` we have to set them like this. The function processes a data structure where each element is a list of two things:

1. The hook to attach the indentation adjustment to.
2. The variable that controls the indentation level.

We then go through each one and create a hook function which adjusts the indentation variable, setting it to 4. This is currently hardcoded; there's no facility to use e.g. 2 instead.

```
30b (All Modes 30a)+≡ (29d)
(mapcar
  (lambda (mode-hook-list)
    (add-hook (car mode-hook-list) '(lambda nil (setq ,(cadr mode-hook-list) 4))))
  '(ada-mode-hook      ada-indent)
    (fortran-mode-hook fortran-do-indent)
    (fortran-mode-hook fortran-if-indent)
    (fortran-mode-hook fortran-structure-indent)
    (prolog-mode-hook  prolog-indent-width)
    (ruby-mode-hook    ruby-indent-level)))
```

## 15.2 C Mode

- Enable hungry delete at the beginning of the line
- Enable sub-word mode.

```
30c (C Mode 30c)≡ (29d)
(add-hook 'c-mode-hook
  (lambda nil
    (progn
      (c-toggle-hungry-state 1)
      (subword-mode))))
```

## 15.3 Emacs Lisp Mode

- Use mixed tabs/spaces for indentation

```
31a <Emacs Lisp Mode 31a>≡ (29d)
  (add-hook 'emacs-lisp-mode-hook
    (lambda nil
      (progn
        (setq indent-tabs-mode t))))
```

## 15.4 Java Mode

- Turn on proper annotation indentation.
- Enable sub-word mode for movement and deletion.

```
31b <Java Mode 31b>≡ (29d)
  (require 'java-mode-indent-annotations)

  (add-hook 'java-mode-hook
    (lambda nil
      (progn
        (java-mode-indent-annotations-setup)
        (subword-mode))))
```

## 15.5 Haskell Mode

- Enable intelligent indentation.

```
31c <Haskell Mode 31c>≡ (29d)
  (add-hook 'haskell-mode-hook 'turn-on-haskell-indent)
```

## 15.6 HTML Mode

- Set a new regexp to match for time stamping.

```
31d <HTML Mode 31d>≡ (29d)
  (add-hook 'html-mode-hook
    (lambda nil
      (progn
        (set-variable 'stamp-prefix "<div id=\"updated\">" t)
        (set-variable 'stamp-suffix "</div>" t))))
```

## 15.7 L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X Mode

- Set auto-fill mode.
- Set the compiler to be pdfL<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

```
31e <LaTeX Mode 31e>≡ (29d)
  (add-hook 'latex-mode-hook
    (lambda nil
      (progn
        (auto-fill-mode 1)
        (set-variable 'compile-command "pdflatex" t))))
```

## 15.8 Python Mode

- Rescan the imenu when we open a file.
- Select different colorization for builtins and keywords.

```
32a (Python Mode 32a)≡ (29d)
(add-hook 'python-mode-hook
  (lambda nil
    (progn
      (imenu--menubar-select imenu--rescan-item)
      (set-face-attribute 'py-builtins-face nil :foreground "DarkOrange2")
      (set-face-attribute 'py-pseudo-keyword-face nil :foreground "DarkOrange2")
      (setq python-honour-comment-indentation t))))
```

## 15.9 Ruby Mode

- Add the imenu to Emacs' menu bar.
- Rescane the imenu when we open a file.

```
32b (Ruby Mode 32b)≡ (29d)
(add-hook 'ruby-mode-hook
  (lambda nil
    (progn
      (imenu-add-to-menubar "Imenu")
      (imenu--menubar-select imenu--rescan-item))))
```

## 15.10 Scala Mode

- Enable sub-word mode for movement and deletion.

```
32c (Scala Mode 32c)≡ (29d)
(add-hook 'scala-mode-hook
  (lambda nil
    (progn
      (subword-mode))))
```

## 15.11 Org Mode

org-mode is a really cool Emacs Lisp package, and it can do a ton of things. Primarily, I use it for a todo list, and for writing kind of extraneous documentation (usually when  $\text{\TeX}$  isn't really suitable).

One weird thing that org-mode does is that it has its own longlines-mode enabled, which makes text scroll the window to the right if you keep typing past the logical end of the line. The way I type things in Emacs is that I like to see the whole thing that I'm typing, then I'll generally hit M-q when I'm done to reflow everything to whatever the *fill-column* is. So in order to prevent the longlines-like behaviour that org-mode uses, I turn on `visual-line-mode` which turns on word wrapping as well.

```
32d (Org Mode 32d)≡ (29d)
(define-key global-map "\C-cl" 'org-store-link)
(define-key global-map "\C-ca" 'org-agenda)
(setq org-log-done t)

(setq org-export-with-priority t)
(setq org-export-html-style-include-default nil)
(setq org-export-html-coding-system 'utf-8)
(setq org-export-html-style "<link rel='stylesheet' type='text/css' href='org-mode.css'/>")
```



```
(setq org-export-html-preamble nil)

(setq org-highest-priority ?1)
(setq org-default-priority ?3)
(setq org-lowest-priority ?5)

(add-hook 'org-mode-hook
  (lambda ()
    (visual-line-mode)))

; (setq org-export-html-style "<link rel='stylesheet' type='text/css' href='http://metasyntax.net/unifraktur/style.css'/>\n<link
rel='stylesheet' type='text/css' href='org-mode.css'/>")
; (setq org-export-html-postamble "<p class='tagline'>by <span style='vertical-align: middle' id='name'>Taylor
Christopher Venable</span> ( x.xx) ( x.xx)</p>")
```

## 16 Server

Emacs Server allows you to continuously use a single Emacs instance and then load buffers within that instance from an outside process. This is especially useful for opening files from a mail client, web browser, or external file manager (if you're not using dired).

```
33 (Server 33)≡ (15a)
  (add-hook 'server-switch-hook
    (lambda nil
      (let ((server-buf (current-buffer)))
        (bury-buffer)
        (switch-to-buffer-other-frame server-buf))))

  (add-hook 'server-done-hook 'delete-frame) ; delete frame when client done
  (server-start) ; enable Emacs server

  (put 'upcase-region 'disabled nil)
  (put 'downcase-region 'disabled nil)
```