

Subject: Re: [NEDC Research] ECE 1111: emacs humor
From: Joseph Picone <joseph.picone@gmail.com>
Date: 6/30/23, 9:30 AM
To: nedc_research <nedc_research@googlegroups.com>
CC: ECE 1111 <temple_engineering_ece1111@googlegroups.com>

Very funny video.

Since it is philosophical Friday (who brought the bagels?)...

One of the funniest parts is when they mention vscode. I laughed because Phuykong and I have a running battle about using vscode for code development vs. debugging. Vscode and emacs space code slightly differently now.

Emacs has over 10,000 built-in commands:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emacs>

But, even though I have used it for 40+ years now, I didn't even know about some of the add-ons that were shown in the video.

GNU seems to support 48 packages. Spacemacs apparently uses 285 packages. There seems to be a package for just about anything... but I personally think people do get carried away with trying to do too much in emacs (like spreadsheets).

I do miss the days of rmail, which is a mail tool integrated into emacs. I could write macros that processed my mail buffers just like any other text buffer. So I could easily do things like extract email addresses into a list, or pull out all lines in all messages that contain a particular phrase. It was pretty powerful.

Why did it go away?

Because people started sending complex documents, like Word and PowerPoint as attachments, and html formatted email, and that made it really hard for emacs to keep up.

Most students who work with me on database projects learn how to do complex macros to process and organize data, and that is when they really begin to appreciate emacs.

-Joe

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On Fri, Jun 30, 2023 at 4:04 AM Joseph Picone <joseph.picone@gmail.com <mailto:joseph.picone@gmail.com>> wrote:

Lilly Veloso... yes THAT Lilly Veloso... sent me this video today:

<https://youtu.be/urcL86UpqZc> <<https://youtu.be/urcL86UpqZc>>

There are many nice quotes in this video such as:

"People don't quit emacs. They just die at some point."

You won't fully appreciate this video until you have mastered the basics of emacs (and programmed in elisp), but there are many important reasons why we encourage you to learn an advanced text editor like emacs.

There has been a long-running religious war between the two major text editors, emacs and vim:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Editor_war <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Editor_war>

The most important thing about this war is this statement:

"As of 2020, both Emacs and vi can lay claim to being among the longest-lived application programs of all time."

In ECE 1111 we will briefly discuss why this is. Both represent some of the most forward-thinking software designs ever.

-Joe

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